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Yours truly  
Alex. Whyte

# HISTORIC FAMILIES,

Notable People, and Memorabilia,

OF

THE LENNOX.

(The Districts embraced in this Volume are LEVEN, LOCHLOMOND, and CARDROSS).

BY

DONALD MACLEOD,

*Author of "Poets and Poetry of the Lennox," &c.*

DUMBARTON:

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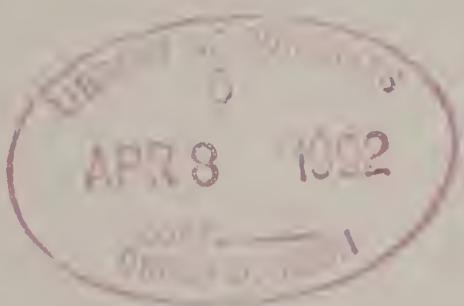
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The Author,

WITH FEELINGS OF DEEPEST RESPECT,

DEDICATES THIS WORK TO

Alexander Wyllie, Esq.,

OF CORDALE,

WHO BY HIS PEN, HIS VOICE, HIS PURSE,

AND HIS EXAMPLE,

HAS DONE WHAT HE COULD TO BRIDGE OVER  
THE YAWNING GULF WHICH SO LONG AND SO DISASTROUSLY

SEPARATED THE MASSES FROM THE CLASSES OF  
SOCIETY, AND THUS RENDERED GOOD SERVICE

TO ALL RANKS AND CONDITIONS OF MEN  
WITHIN THE BORDERS OF OUR  
COMMON COUNTRY.



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## Introductory.

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Most COURTEOUS READER, "I greit you weil," and bespeak a kindly welcome at your hands for this new-born offspring of my brain.

It is fourteen years since, when in my tenth lustrum, I essayed my first flight in the domain of letters. Since that period, I have given to the world nine volumes, all of which were—with two exceptions—devoted to the setting forth of Dumbartonshire subjects. Not the least successful of the series was the work termed the "God's Acres of Dumbarton." This present volume, while in part running on similar lines with the book just mentioned, yet in the main diverges considerably from it, inasmuch as the new aspirant for public favour embraces a greater variety of themes than its forerunner did, and treats of the living as well as of the dead.

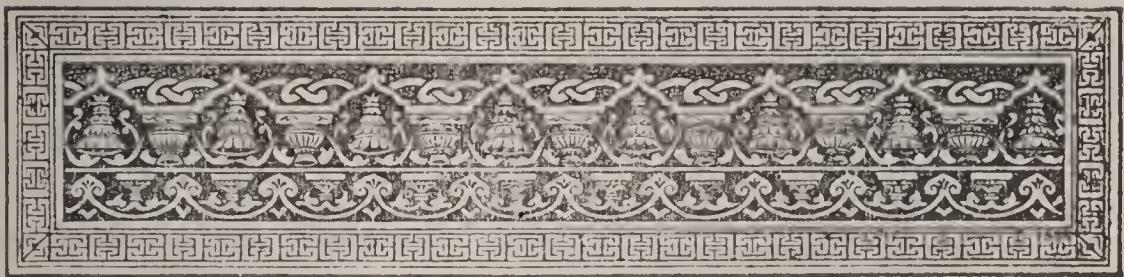
I have in this work honestly endeavoured so to set forth my matter as to make it attractive not only to those connected with the Vale of Leven, Lochlomond, and Cardross, but to many people outwith these localities. Time will show whether I have hit or fallen short of the mark aimed at.

In the preparation of the book for the press, I own my indebtedness for assistance to Sir James Colquhoun, of Colquhoun and Luss, Bart.; Miss Colquhoun, Edinburgh; Mr Thomas Gildard, Glasgow; Mr John MacLeod, Renton; Rev. Wm. Simpson, Bonhill; Rev. Dr Mackintosh, Buchanan; Mr Robert Craig, Sheriff-Clerk of Dumbartonshire; and other gentlemen. I have also obtained for the work information of considerable importance from Irving's invaluable "History of Dumbartonshire," and from other sources.

Having made these acknowledgements, I return most hearty thanks to those named above—and to those unnamed—for the kindly services rendered so willingly by them to their obliged servant,

DONALD MACLEOD.

BALCLUTHA LODGE,  
DUMBARTON.



*HISTORIC FAMILIES, NOTABLE PEOPLE, AND MEMORABILIA,  
OR  
LEVEN, LOCHLOMOND, AND CARDROSS.*

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Chapter X.

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RENTON.

**A**NO intelligent reader of anything concerning Renton in a general way—such as this notice of it is—but has before his mind's eye Tobias Smollett, the greatest man in the domain of literature Dumbartonshire has ever produced. In more than one of my former works somewhat lengthened notices of him were given, so I will not now go into matters of detail regarding his history. I will merely say that in the south end of the village, opposite the Public School, a monument of the Tuscan order of architecture stands, which was erected to his memory by his cousin, the laird of Bonhill. In his latter days the historian almost lacked bread, but after his demise he had this goodly stone given as a propitiatory sacrifice to his manes. Thus not infrequently are the earth's great ones treated—neglected when living; adored when dead.

The site of the old house of Dalquhurn, in which Tobias Smollett was born in 1721, is embraced within the bounds of a field at the south end of the village, overlooking the Leven. Dalquhurn House was a three-storey, gaunt, prosaic building, of a severely plain style of architecture. Its northren front showed unadorned walls, pierced with three oblong windows in each flat. It had a one-storey wing at its west end, the whole being surrounded by a low wall. The old mansion house stood on a commanding knoll, which dominated the river at one of its most beauteous links. Its northern windows commanded a fine view cf the Leven Valley, and from its southern ones prospects of the castle and town of Dumbarton, and their beautifully diversified surroundings, could be obtained, so that while the “auld hoose” was in itself unlovely, its position was most attractive. There are people still living who remember the stones of this interesting building, in which the immortal “Toby” was cradled, being carted away to fence the neighbouring fields. To such base uses did they come at last. The foundation stones of the old edifice were dug out two or three years ago, and a sand pit now marks the place where a great genius was born, whose reputation stands firm on the rock of public esteem.

Six years after the birth of Tobias Smollett, the erstwhile pastoral valley of the Leven was invaded by the manufacturing tribe, who have altered its character almost entirely from north to south, converting it into a congeries of smoky, populous, prosperous manufacturing villages, the great seat in Scotland of the Turkey-red dyeing and calico printing industries. But that transformation has not entirely defaced the scene. Between Dalquhurn and Cordale, and Bonhill and Balloch, there still remains much of the beauty of which of old time Tobias Smollett wrote in his imperishable “Ode to Leven Water.” Before the old house of Dalquhurn was razed, an educationist lived in one or

two of the more habitable of its apartments, and in that classic spot “taught the young idea how to shoot.”

Of old time, the house in which Tobias Smollett was born, and the estate attached to it, belonged to the ancient and distinguished family of the

#### SPREULLS OF DALQUHURN.

Duncan, Earl of Lennox, in a charter dated at Balloch 12th February, 1421, granted the lands of Dalchurne to Walter Spreull and the heirs male of his body. Fifteen different instruments of sasine, from that date down to 1621, confirm the family in the estate. In 1645 a charter was granted of the lands by the Commissioners of the Duke of Lennox to Mr Archibald Dennistoun (son-in-law of James Spreull), heir apparent of John Dennistoun of Dalchurne, upon the resignation of the latter.

On 30th July, 1669, it is on record that Archibald Dennistoun made a resignation of the lands of Dalchurne in favour of Mr Thomas Fleming, merchant, burgess of Dumbarton, and his son Charles, in fee, with reservation of the lands of Over and Nether Cordells in favour of John Semple of Fulwood. Charles Fleming, in 1692, sold Dalquhurn estate to Sir James Smollett of Bonhill, in the hands of whose descendants it still remains.

After holding the estate of Dalquhurn for two hundred and seventy-one years, the Spreulls ceased to have a landed interest in the parish of Cardross. However, the family is still substantially represented within its borders by a descendant in the female line in the person of John William Burns, of Kilmahew and Cumbernauld—whose ancestor, Walter Spreull, was Seneschal of the Lennox in the days of Wallace. Of a verity, the laird of Kilmahew is “of auld and honourable descent,” and as far as that goes—and in many other respects—may “cock his beaver” with the best in the county.

Renton has been peculiarly blessed in having in its midst

as residents, for a long period of time in succession, leading men and women of a superior type. The old

#### STIRLING'S OF DALQUIHURN AND CORDALE

were men of mark, who left their impress on it for good, and their long and honourable connection with the place, which they may be said to have made, is well worth recording.

In 1727 the feu of Nether-Cordale was conveyed to Walter Stirling and Archibald Buchanan, as trustees for the Dalquhurn bleaching Company. In 1770 the lands of Upper Cordale were feued from Campbell of Stonefield, and a "print field" was erected thereon, and business begun therein by William Stirling in co-partnery with his three sons—Andrew, John, and James—under the title, William Stirling & Sons. William Stirling died at the age of sixty-seven several years after he settled in the Leven Valley, leaving three sons: Andrew of Drumpellier, John of Tullichewan, and James of Stair; and two daughters, one of whom—Elizabeth—was mother of Sir William Hamilton, the eminent scholar and philosopher, and Thomas Hamilton, author of "Cyril Thornton," one of the very best novels extant, full as it is of a healthy, natural sensationalism, and vivid descriptions of scenes at home and abroad during the Napoleonic wars. The other daughter, Agnes, was the mother of Andrew and Dugald John Bannatyne, eminent men in their time.

The sons, after old Mr Stirling's death, carried on the business energetically. In 1791, their relative conveyed to them the feu and works of Dalquhurn, thus enabling them to further extend their operations. Andrew, the eldest of the brothers, withdrew from the concern in 1792, and ultimately John Stirling of Tullichewan became sole partner, and on his decease the works passed into the hands of his sons, William and George, handsome men whom I well remember. George, who was born in 1783, died in 1848. He married his cousin Anna, daughter of James Stirling of

Stair, and left an only daughter, who married Colonel Roth. The other brother, William, born 1780, married Margaret Hamilton, daughter of James Ritchie of Craigton and Busby, and by her had sixteen children. William Stirling died 1847. His son, John, was killed in India while leading an assault, and a monument was erected by his brother officers, to his memory, in the nave of Glasgow Cathedral. The second son,

JAMES STIRLING,

as the resident partner, occupied Cordale House in succession to his uncle George, and for a time efficiently discharged the duties appertaining to his position; but that position proving irksome, and for the purpose of indulging in more congenial pursuits, he retired from the firm in 1854, along with his brother Charles, leaving their brother William sole partner. James Stirling was chairman of the Monkland Canal. In politics he was a keen disciple of the old Whig school. Mr Stirling had fine literary tastes, and a trenchant style of writing. In 1856 he paid a visit to the United States of America; and upon his return home, he published a work embodying his experiences, styled, "Letters from the Slave States," which created a considerable sensation. In 1859 he wrote, "Failure of the Forbes-Mackenzie Act," a small pamphlet of a plain, outspoken nature, which was well received by a section of the community. But in spite of his pronouncement, the Forbes-Mackenzie Act has been no failure. He (James Stirling) wrote too soon after the event to give a calm, unprejudiced, enlightened judgment on the subject. In 1865 he gave to the world, in book form, "Practical Considerations on Banks and Bank Management." This work, like all its predecessors from the same source, was written in a clear, vigorous, cultured style. In 1865 he contested with Patrick Boyle Smollett of Bonhill for the representation of Dunbartonshire in the British House of Commons. Both candidates had seemingly

received an equal amount of support at the poll, but on a scrutiny, Mr Smollett was declared duly elected by one vote.

When James Stirling removed from Cordale House, he took up his residence at Rockend House, Helensburgh, where he passed quietly away at the ripe age of 78. He was survived by three brothers—Charles, Richard, and William—the latter of whom died about two years ago. (He was the great grandson of William Stirling *primus*, of date 1770.) He severed his connection with the old firm in 1876, leaving the business in the hands of his sole co-partner,

JOHN MATHESON, JUNR.,

of Cordale, who worthily stepped into the shoes of the old Stirlings, and marched onward in their footsteps, blessing and being blessed. Besides having business capacities of a high order, he had literary acquirements of no mean description. In 1870 he published a handsome volume entitled “England to Delhi,” which was well received by the public. His status in musical and scientific ranks was high. To the regret of all who knew him, he was suddenly called hence in 1878. On 4th June, 1879, a memorial bust of Mr Matheson, Junr., was presented, by the subscribers, to the Corporation of Glasgow—Lord Provost Collins in the chair. Sir Peter Coats, in making the presentation, said:—“It was felt that a valuable life had departed, and it has occurred to some of us that the public estimate of his excellent abilities and his many admirable virtues should have some definite and enduring expression. We have therefore to ask your Lordship, as representing the city, to accept of this bust of our deceased and much lamented friend, with the view of having it placed in the Corporation Galleries, among the memorials of other honoured citizens.” It may be stated that the bust was executed by the late George E. Ewing, of Glasgow, and is considered a meritorious work.

The following verses, penned by Mr Matheson, junr, fully thirty years ago, are well worth giving here. They are entitled—

CONCERNING THEM WHICH ARE ASLEEP.

Shadows o'er the evening falling,  
 Softly gather, gently creep,  
 Where, silent till the trumpet's calling,  
 Lie those that sleep ;  
 For there the earth, with bosom swelling,  
 Guardeth love's treasures in the deep,  
 And calm and hallowed is the dwelling  
 Of them that sleep.

Sunbeams from the morning flowing !  
 Downward from the mountains leap,  
 And linger with their brightest glowing  
 O'er those that sleep :  
 For, folding them in sheen of glory,  
 A seemly vigil there ye keep !  
 So bright and shining is the story  
 Of them that sleep.

Hearts that know not how to falter !  
 Eyes that cannot choose but weep !  
 Hold fast your priesthood at the altar  
 Of them that sleep !  
 For life is but a stinted measure,  
 Swift to the goal the moments sweep ;  
 Beyond ye have a laid up treasure  
 In them that sleep.

Sowers in the vale of sadness !  
 Haleyon harvests shall ye reap—  
 Yet glean on earth some fruit of gladness  
 In them that sleep ;  
 For, from beyond Heaven's star-built portals,  
 Blazoned on the midnight steep,  
 Responsive love is shed on mortals  
 From them that sleep.

## BRIGADIER GENERAL SIR DONALD MATHESON, K.C.B.

This distinguished man is the son of the late John Matheson, Esq., of the firm of John Matheson & Co., Turkey-Red Dyers and Calico Printers, Glasgow ; of which city he is a native. His early commercial training was acquired when engaged with Messrs Reed & Dennistoun, a foreign commission house in Glasgow. At a later period he established and conducted, simultaneously, the businesses of Donald Matheson & Co., Dyers ; and Matheson & Alston, East India Merchants ; both being carried on in Glasgow. When, in 1878, the death occurred of Mr John Matheson, junior, the sole-surviving partner of the old-established house of William Stirling & Sons, Colonel Matheson formed a partnership by whom that business was acquired, with its extensive dyeing and calico printing works in Dumbartonshire. He is, however, not so familiarly known to the majority of my readers as a captain of industry as he is as a most successful Volunteer Engineer Officer ; and to that feature in his life, the following notice will be devoted principally. The matter embraced in it has in great measure been obtained from the *Volunteer Record*, of date April 2nd, 1887. Although Sir Donald is now in command of the Senior Engineer Corps north of the Border, he took his first degrees in the 1st Lanark Artillery, joining that regiment at the end of 1859, when No. 6 Company was formed, he being one of the first officers posted to it, and he was one of those presented to Her Majesty at the Levee in St. James' Palace, in March, 1860. So assiduously did he devote himself to acquiring a knowledge of artillery work, that when, in the summer of 1860, a tenth company was raised, the members being mainly composed by men from among the employees of the firm of Messrs Walker, Birrell & Co., Lieutenant Matheson was selected for its Captaincy. Up to this time the 1st Lanark Artillery had been without the services of an Adjutant. However, in July, 1860, it became necessary to make arrangements, in view of the forthcoming Royal Review, to fill the vacant

appointment. Colonel Morrison, who then commanded the corps, made Captain Matheson Acting-Adjutant (it may be mentioned that he had some time previously qualified for the duties he was called upon to perform by gaining a certificate of competence to superintend gun practice). This post he held with great credit to himself and advantage to the service until an officer of the Royal Artillery was appointed, some twelve months later. As Acting-Adjutant he carried out his duties with that rare ability which has distinguished him throughout his various services as a Volunteer, and won for him the distinction of a Companionship of the Bath, bestowed on him by the Queen 20 years later. Towards the close of 1860 he, in company with a brother officer, acted as a deputation from his corps to the War Office, in favour of a gentleman whose services they were anxious to secure as permanent Adjutant. In 1863, when the 1st Lanark Engineers were consolidated, and field officers were appointed ; Captain Matheson was invited, in view of his well-earned popularity as an officer in the sister branch, to accept the commission of Major. Two years after, on the retirement of Colonel Johnstone to honorary rank, Major Matheson became Lieutenant-Colonel, his commission being dated 25th November, 1865, and he has held the appointment to the present time. He has therefore entered on the twenty-second year of his command, and is, in virtue of his long service, the senior Lieutenant-Colonel of Volunteers in the West of Scotland. His services as a Volunteer Officer are by no means confined to the performance of his duties in connection with his own corps, for he has on several occasions acted as Aide-de-Camp and Brigade Major in the various field days of the Scottish Volunteers. Moreover, his reputation as an Engineer is almost as great south of the Tweed as in his native city. Ten years ago he had the distinction of being appointed to the command of the first Engineer Volunteer encampment, which was held at Upnor, near Chatham, when about 600 men

and 35 officers were, for purposes of instruction, drawn together from all the Engineer Corps of the kingdom. He also commanded the Engineer Volunteer camp formed at Chatham in the following year, to take part in the great siege operations of that season. At the conclusions of these operations Colonel Matheson was highly complimented on the manner in which he had carried out the duties of his command: a hasty redoubt, capable of affording shelter to 1500 men and two guns, which had been constructed by the Volunteer Engineers alone, under his command, elicited the warmest encomiums from the inspecting officers. As regards the 1st Lanark Engineers, it maintains a high and yearly increasing efficiency under Col. Matheson. Every year a strong detachment from the corps proceeds to Chatham and undergoes a fortnight's practical training in engineering. The value and quality of the work performed by them has raised them very considerably in the estimation of the Military Engineering Authorities; while the Submarine Company, which was formed in connection with the corps some time since, has performed duties of a most valuable kind. This special company, which was raised in 1886, under Captain Black, numbers 60 men, who averaged 50 drills, has to perform an amount of work which is much greater than that done by the ordinary engineer, and every man is bound by the terms of his engagement to go through a course of training, extending over 14 days, every year. The defensive works at Fort Matilda, near Gourock, will prove of the greatest possible benefit to this company for training purposes. It may be mentioned that the men of the special company are paid 5s per day when out for training, and that the Capitation Grant earned by them is £5 per man. Colonel Matheson may be congratulated on having this smart and efficient company attached to his battalion.

For many years Lanarkshire stood alone among Scottish counties as regards the possession of an Engineer Volunteer Corps

—such other corps as were formed during the earlier days of the movement, having died out—and it was not till 1878 that Aberdeen followed in the wake of Lanark, and established a scientific corps. The last return shows the condition of the 1st L.E.V. to be as follows:—enrolled strength, 646; efficient, 613; proficients, 65; passed in tactics, 9; increase from last year, 32. In 1881 the Queen created Colonel Matheson a Companion of the Bath (Civil Division), and in 1885 he was advanced to full Colonel. In virtue of this promotion he ranks as Colonel, and Lieutenant-Colonel commanding his corps.

On the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee, Her Majesty decided that among the honours then bestowed only one K.C.B. should be conferred upon the auxiliary forces of her Empire, and the Secretary of State for War selected Colonel Matheson, C.B., as the recipient of that distinguished honour.

Sir Donald's position is, at present, Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Lanark; Colonel Commanding the Lanarkshire Volunteer Royal Engineers; Hon. Commandant of the Clyde Division Submarine Miners Royal Engineers; Brigadier General commanding the Clyde Brigade Infantry Volunteers—which comprises the Infantry Volunteers of Dumbartonshire, Argyllshire, Ayrshire, and Renfrewshire.

He still retains his partnership interest in the old and honourable firm of William Stirling & Sons, Turkey-Red Dyers and Printers, Dalquhurn and Cordale, Vale of Leven. Sir Donald's town house is 6 Park Terrace, Glasgow; and his country residence is at Bourtreehill, Ayrshire.

The Brigadier General has never been married; his widowed sister, Mrs. George Coats, and he live together.

I now go on to give a biographical sketch of the resident partner of the firm of William Stirling & Sons, who has been an unmixed blessing to the village of Renton and district.

## ALEXANDER WYLIE OF CORDALE.

This widely-known Vale of Leven man's family on both sides have been long and intimately connected with the dyeing and calico printing industries, both of his grandfathers having been men of mark in the calico printing world in the latter part of the past and in the earlier part of the present century, and noted for their public spirit and benevolence.

Mr Wylie's maternal grandfather, Mr George Kinloch (whose father settled in Dumbartonshire, near Helensburgh, about the middle of last century), was one of two or three leading men who, in 1786, built the first seceding church in the Vale of Leven, which still exists, and is now known as the Renton Levenside Free Church, the interesting history of which you will find in one or more of the pages of this work further on.

Mr Wylie's uncle—Mr Graham Kinloch—built the Ferryfield Print Work, Alexandria, in company with Mr William Guthrie ; and there for many years the firm of Guthrie, Kinloch & Company carried on a successful business.

Mr Graham Kinloch established the first bank in Alexandria. It was a branch of the Clydesdale, and had its habitation in the Ferry Loan, now called, after the monetary establishment, Bank Street.

He was Chairman of the company which first brought gravitation water into the village ; and he took a leading part in all the social and religious movements in the Vale of Leven.

Mr Wylie's father—Mr John Wylie—was of a long-lived Ayrshire race (his father having lived to eighty-seven, and his grandfather to one hundred and five years of age), who for several generations possessed a comfortable competency, and gave many admirable members to society.

Mr John Wylie was trained at Campsie, under his own father, to colour making and calico printing, and here also he acquired a knowledge of what is called “the old process,” from Mr A.

M'Bean, one of the famous old turkey red dyers, who had been formerly with the Stirlings, and afterwards with the Monteiths.

Mr John Wylie went to Lancashire for the purpose of increasing his technical knowledge, and from thence came to the Vale of Leven, to the works of Messrs John Orr Ewing & Co., Croftengaea, now known in its greatly enlarged state as "Alexandria Turkey-red Print and Dye Works."

Mr John Wylie was a man of the most unswerving integrity and uprightness, and possessed of a very modest, retiring, and amiable disposition ; and from the time he came to the district until his lamented death in 1880, in his 81st year—a period of about five-and-forty years—he endeared himself to the people of the Vale of Leven by his unostentatious benevolence and kindly dealings.

When in Lancashire, he acquired a knowledge of what is termed "the new process" of turkey red dyeing, and in 1843 he engaged, for what was then and still continues to be the very enterprising and go-ahead firm of Messrs John Orr Ewing & Co., two practical workmen (the brothers Holland), who in conjunction with himself, successfully wrought out and introduced this process to the Vale of Leven, upon which a large portion of its prosperity has since rested. It not only enables turkey red dyeing to be carried on in the winter as well as the summer (to which the old process had been restricted), but it secures a brilliancy of colour unequalled by any other process yet invented ; and the Vale of Leven is now the only district in which it is extensively prosecuted.

Whilst in Croftengaea, Sir Archd. Orr Ewing, Bart., as a mere lad, came to join the works of his brother, by whom he was at first placed with Mr Wylie to be initiated into the mysteries of colour making and calico printing. The mutual kindly feelings which then began between teacher and pupil continued until Mr Wylie's death.

In 1845, when Sir Archibald Orr Ewing resolved to start

business on his own account, Mr John Wylie left the older firm and removed to Levenbank Works, which Sir Archibald had acquired, and which Mr Wylie had the satisfaction of seeing grow up from small dimensions to be one of the most extensive and best managed print and dye works in the kingdom.

In this prosperous concern Alexander Wylie, now of Cordale, when sixteen years of age, began to learn colour making and calico printing under his father's watchful eye, and in that position he remained for several years, until he mastered these crafts, and then he entered Glasgow University as a student. When he left the University he joined the town department of Sir Archibald Orr Ewing & Co.'s business, which, under its energetic and able head, had become the largest and most successful turkey red dyeing concern in the world.

In 1874 Mr Wylie transferred his services to Messrs William Stirling & Sons, and on the death of Mr John Matheson, junr. (with whom he was just going into partnership), in 1878, he formed a co-partnery, which bought the business, and ever since he has continued to be the resident partner of the firm, which now holds an even better position in the turkey red dyeing and calico printing world than it has done in the past.

Quite recently, his brother, Mr Hugh Wylie, has been assumed as a partner.

Mr Wylie, although most attentive to business, has never allowed himself to be entirely absorbed by it. In the domain of letters, he has contributed to *Meliora*, *Fraser's Magazine*, *The Scottish Church*, and other magazines. In 1884 he wrote a work on "Labour, Leisure, and Luxury," which was published by Longmans, of London, and was commended by almost the whole press of the country as one of the ablest treatises on our great social questions. A popular edition of the work has since been published.

Mr Wylie is a Director of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce,

He is also a J.P. for the County of Dumbarton, and has taken a most active interest in all matters relating to its welfare, both in the committees of the old Commissioners of Supply and in those of the new County Council.

He has taken a deep concern in educational matters, having been a member of Cardross School Board for twelve years, and its chairman for the last six. While taking this interest in the development of the minds of the children and youths of the parish, he has not been unmindful of their physical development. He is a great advocate of muscular Christianity, and, believing strongly in a sound mind being furnished with a sound body through which to work out its behests, he takes a lively interest in athletics. The famous Renton football team, for two or three years champions of the world, came under Mr Wylie's fostering care when mere lads, and into these he infused a spirit of fair play that bore precious fruit.

Mr Alexander Wylie's nature is a many-sided one, and his tastes and sympathies are wide. He takes a particular pleasure in attending ploughing matches and cattle shows, and is well up in agricultural matters in general. Those who follow the plough have in him a good friend.

Inheriting the benevolent instincts of his forefathers, and following in their footsteps, he strives to act like a father to those in his employment, so as to improve their material and moral condition as much as lies in his power—and in that noble work he has not laboured in vain.

Though encroaching enormously on his business time, and even more so on his hours of leisure, the doors of Cordale House are ever open to the widow, the fatherless, and all the deserving poor of Renton; to the office-bearers of all kinds of societies and associations; to all who are interested in the improvement and amusement of the people, and to all others who seek his assistance and advice.

In 1880, Mr Alexander Wylie married Miss Mylrea, daughter of P. Mylrea, Esq., of Waterloo, Liverpool, a lady who entered enthusiastically into all her husband's benevolent schemes. In the year 1883—when this most estimable lady had been withdrawn by the hand of Death from the activities of life, amid the deep, heartfelt regrets of the whole community—the good work carried on by her so energetically for the spiritual and temporal elevation of the villagers of Renton was taken vigorously up by her sister-in-law, Miss Wylie of Cordale, who had had large practice in the carrying on of such agencies in Jamestown, where her pious labours were as eminently successful as they are in her new field of operations.

Since Mr Wylie, thirteen years ago, became resident partner of the firm of Messrs William Stirling & Sons, the works have been much improved and enlarged ; and, greatly by his aid and judicious guidance, the village of Renton has undergone a wondrous transformation. Its entire aspect is changed for the better. It has a commodious Public Hall, a useful and ornamental Victoria Institute, it has been well drained, and has acquired an abundant supply of purest gravitation water, and in other directions has made marked progress.

Mr Wylie has been recently selected by the Unionist party in Dumbartonshire as their candidate in the next contest for the representation of the county in the House of Commons. His suitability for that exalted position can hardly be challenged. While he is no advocate for despoiling any section of the community, yet his sympathies are with the masses. He has written on their behalf, and for their interests he has spent much time and money, preferring such labour to selfish, inglorious ease. Where he is best known, he is beloved the best. In Mr Wylie we have the type of man this world sorely needs, to steer it through a sea of troubles into a desired haven of rest, peace, and prosperity.

Another of the old manufacturing firms of Renton which is now and always has been held in the highest esteem, is that of

THE TURNBULLS, PLACE OF BONHILL,

which has been connected with the Vale of Leven for over a century. This family belonged originally to Bedrule, in Roxburghshire, but left it and settled in Lanarkshire, where they were long tacksmen of Blantyre farm. Family tradition says that they held that position for over two hundred years ; and this is to a certain extent corroborated by an old document in the possession of the Scots of Blantyre farm, dated 1654, which shows that James Turnbull was at that date tenant or tacksman of the farm. John Turnbull, a grandson of the James Turnbull mentioned in the document, was born at Blantyre farm in 1710. He, with his son John, removed to Govan in 1750, where they carried on business as wood merchants, becoming afterwards calico printers at Dawsholm. While there, they became connected with William Stirling & Sons, who were then also printers at Dawsholm, and from an indenture in the possession of W. S. Turnbull, Place of Bonhill, it appears that his great grandfather engaged with the Stirlings in 1773, to take charge of the Cordale works, which they had recently started. John Turnbull, sen., with his son, became partners in William Stirling & Sons' firm in 1790 ; the son retiring from the firm in 1805, and the father in 1809, receiving, as part re-payment of their capital, the works of Croftengea, then occupied by the Stirlings.

Those works were carried on by Turnbull & Jones as a bleach-work, and afterwards by S. Turnbull, Arthurs & Co., as a Turkey-red dye-work, the first of the kind in the Vale of Leven. In 1840, they sold the work to Mr John Orr Ewing, and it is now carried on by his firm of John Orr Ewing & Co. In, 1790, John Turnbull, jun., had become a partner in Arthurs, Neale & Co., who had their works at Pollockshaws. Charles M'Intosh was

also a partner in the concern, and he it was who afterwards, with Dr Couper and Charles Tennent, sen., started the St. Rollox works.

About the beginning of the century, the firm became Turnbull & Ramsay. (Mr Ramsay was the father of the present Sir Andrew Ramsay, the geologist.) In 1806, the firm purchased the old mill at Barrowfield, and built their present works there. These were carried on in connection with the Millburn pyro-ligneous works, which had been started prior to the beginning of the century, and were the first of the kind in Scotland, and the second in the kingdom, old Sir Robert Peel having brought the process from France to his works in Lancashire, from whom John Turnbull obtained a knowledge of it. The firm shortly afterwards started the Bo'ness works, in the same line ; then those at Aberfoyle in 1816 ; Tayvallich in 1826 ; Portsonnachan in 1828 ; followed in more recent years by those at the Maidens and Kilkerran in Ayrshire, Binghamton in America, Coloony in Sligo, Balmaha, Perth, Stirling, and Crinan.

W. S. Turnbull's grandfather also carried on, for some time, the Dillichip calico printing works, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Robert Arthur (who purchased them from the Todds), the firm being Turnbull & Arthur. The works were ultimately sold by the trustees of Miss Mary Arthur to Sir Archibald Orr Ewing, Bart., and are now carried on by his firm.

W. S. Turnbull's great grandfather, after leaving Cordale, lived in Dalquhurn House for some years, and came to the Place of Bonhill in 1806. The old house of Bonhill was then deserted by the Smolletts, and in ruins, but was restored by John Turnbull, in accordance with an arrangement made with Captain Smollett, the then laird of Bonhill.

Relatives of W. S. Turnbull's mother (Watson, Arthur & Co.) built the first Levenbank works in 1784. In 1808, they passed into the hands of his grandfather, John Stewart, and were

carried on under the style or firm of Stewart, Arthur & Co.; becoming, in 1845, the property, by purchase, of Messrs Archd. Orr Ewing & Co. And here ends my notice of the oldest business firm in the Vale of Leven, which is still in the hands of the descendants of those who originally instituted it.

JOHN MACLEOD, ENGINEER,

One of the best known and one of the most useful of the inhabitants of Renton, was born in Oban about 1830, where his father was piermaster. The family after a time removed to Bonawe, 12 miles distant from Oban, where the father died, leaving a widow and four young children, of whom the subject of this memoir was the second eldest, and only five years of age. For the sake of securing employment for her young family, the mother took her offspring to Renton in 1835, where and when the subject of this sketch began his industrial life as a "tearer" in Cordale works. By-and-bye, he was promoted to the post of taking charge of the block-print house, and in 1857 he was apprenticed as a mill-wright with the owners of the works, Messrs William Stirling & Sons, and served his seven years with them to the trade.

In 1854, when he became a journeyman, he entered the employment of Messrs Tulloch & Denny, Engineers, Dumbarton, travelling morning and night from and to Renton, where he abode with his mother. In 1859, he received the appointment of engineer and mill architect of the works of the Messrs Stirling, at Cordale and Dalquhurn.

In his new capacity, Mr MacLeod has shown marked ability. So far back as 1864, he designed and patented a yarn-tramping machine for liquoring yarns, and also a yarn-washing machine. In 1865 he invented and patented a machine for dyeing yarns for 120-lbs, and in 1867 he patented a second machine for dyeing, clearing, and washing 300-lbs of yarn. In 1878 he patented a

hydraulic bundling press. In 1879 he patented a stove filling and stripping apparatus, but that has been superseded. The other machines, however, are all in use at this present.

John MacLeod's abilities as an architect have found a good field in the village. Many of its private, and a few of its public buildings have been designed by him, including the last addition to the public school. He is a member of the School Board. He was for years president and secretary of the old Renton Public School Society, and was its president when the school was transferred along with the teacher's house to the School Board. In fine, I ask my readers to carefully peruse the portion of this book which refers to recent improvements in Renton, a few pages further on, and take my word for it, that John MacLeod had a great deal to do with them all. More especially was he identified with the introduction of gas and water into the village.

DUGALD MITCHELL, M.B., C.M.

Among the notable men of most communities, those of the medical profession occupy a prominent position. Renton is no exception to the rule. Dr Mitchell, its medico, is one of its leading lights. He was born at Tarbert, Lochfyne, 6th February, 1853—son of Alexander Mitchell, general merchant there. Educated at local schools, and afterwards at High School, Glasgow. He assisted his father in the conduct of his business for about three years, and then turned his attention to medicine, and matriculated at Glasgow University in 1875. Graduated M.B., C.M., July, 1879. After acting as assistant for a brief period, and practising for about a year in Tillicoultry, he settled in Renton in 1881. He holds the appointment of sanitary medical officer of Renton. Has served on Cardross School Board since 1885. The Doctor takes an active interest in all matters having for their object the improvement of the village and villagers. He is an enthusiastic bowler, and feels interested in all athletic

sports. In addition, he is an elder in Levenside Free Church, and author of a well-written, reliable work on "Tarbert, Past and Present," published in 1886, which met with a good reception at the hands of the critics and the public. The Doctor is a benedict, having married in 1884.

#### CHURCHES OF RENTON.

Contrary to the plan carried out by me in other portions of this work, wherein I confine myself to giving the history of the Parish Church of each locality, I here give a somewhat lengthened notice of the various churches of Renton. My reasons for doing so are that the first chapel erected in Renton was one built by dissenters, and that the God's Acre of the village is also connected with a place of worship which does not own its allegiance to the Church of Scotland. The first house of prayer erected in Renton was the one at the head of the Red Row, which was called the

#### RENTON LEVENSIDE ASSOCIATE BURGHER CHURCH—

a longish title, and one which would require a Philadelphia lawyer to make plain its meaning to the present generation. The site was the gift of William Stirling & Sons. The church—a plain, unattractive edifice—was built in 1786. Its erection was beset with considerable difficulties on account of the various obstacles put in the way of its promoters by the heritors and others, who even went the length of requesting employers of labour to discharge from their service the seceders who were erecting a chapel "which might be instrumental in closing the doors of the Parish Church." But in vain did these boycotters make that appeal; for, to their honour be it spoken, the printfield owners turned a deaf ear to their entreaties. On the opening day of the chapel it is on record that: "All the men put into the plate paper, and all the boys silver." The Rev. William Taylor was first minister of the chapel, and remained in that position for twenty years, removing to

Perth in 1806. The minister, on communion occasions, had as many as nine clergymen assisting him, and people not only from the surrounding district, but from Greenock, Paisley, and Glasgow, flocked to these solemnities in thousands, sometimes as many as seven thousand being present, the service being held on the green behind the chapel.

The place of worship remained till 1842 in connection with the body which founded it, but at that date the congregation joined the Reformed Presbyterian or "Cameronian" body, and continued in that connection until 1876, when once more a change was effected by amalgamating with the Free Church. Mr Taylor's successor in the pastorate of the chapel was the Rev. John M'Kinlay, who, for fully half a century, went out and in among the people, full of the Holy Ghost and with great power and acceptance. On 2nd Oct., 1856, his jubilee as minister of the chapel was held, and in the following year he died in the seventy-fourth year of his age. He preached to his people the second Sabbath before his death. His successor was the Rev. John Hamilton, who, for seventeen years, with great ability and earnestness ministered unto the people in holy things. At the end of that period he was called to the Free West Church, Glasgow, from whence, after a few years of faithful work, he was called to join the Church Triumphant. His comparatively early decease was much deplored. Mr Hamilton's successor in the Levenside Free Church was the Rev. Geo. Davidson, who only remained in the charge seventeen months, when he accepted a call to the Free Barony Church, Glasgow. Next in order came the Rev. Archd. Bell, an accomplished and faithful man, who, following the example of the majority of his predecessors in the charge, left it early—1886 being the date when he accepted a call to the Free Dean Church, Edinburgh. His successor in the Levenside Chapel is the Rev. James M'Robert, M.A., who was born and brought up in Glasgow, and was an alumnus of its University. He was

licensed in June, 1886, and in the September of same year he was ordained and inducted to his present charge.

#### ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

Renton being the most populous village or place in the parish of Cardross, it is not to be wondered at that a goodly number of its residents belonged to the Established Church, and walked over Carman Hill to worship in the Kirk of the Parish. The parish minister held religious services and administered the sacrament of baptism at stated intervals in the village school, for the convenience of those of his parishioners who dwelt in or near the place. The heritors, in 1852, built in the village a mission house, and school for females, which they ultimately enlarged when, on 28th February, 1870, the Renton district was created a *quoad sacra* parish—the opening day being 17th April of same year.

The Rev. D. H. Wilson, who had been for some time officiating as missionary, was ordained first minister of the church. On 18th October, 1887, the Rev. A. Cameron Watson, B.D., was inducted as colleague and successor in the charge. Quite recently it was fully realised that the church was structurally in an unsatisfactory condition, and a bazaar—that favourite device for raising money for church purposes—was held, to raise money for the thorough renovation of the old edifice, or the building of a new one. The outcome of the movement was of such an entirely satisfactory nature that a new and handsome Parish Kirk is being erected on a suitable site, the lord of the manor, P. B. Smollett, Esq., of Bonhill, having granted such almost free of charge.

Mr Wylie of Cordale was the main-spring of the operations which have brought about this most desirable consummation. The old place of worship passes into the hands of the United Presbyterians (at the price of £400) when the new Parish Kirk of Renton is ready for occupancy. The new church, which is being built in Leven Street, will cost about £3000, and will give accommoda-

dation to 800 worshippers. Messrs H. & D. Barclay, of Glasgow, are the architects, and it is confidently expected that the edifice will prove a beautiful and comfortable place of worship, and a great ornament to the village. Mr James Barlas, Alexandria, does the mason work, and Mr John Gillies, Alexandria, executes the wright work.

[As I write, there is a rumour—and I believe a well founded one—that our Roman Catholic Brethren who dwell in Renton are about to erect therein a place of worship on a suitable site—which will satisfy a felt want of long duration.]

The minister of Renton's biography is as follows :—

REV. ALEXANDER CAMERON WATSON, M.A., B.D.

This clergyman was born in Glasgow, on April 3rd, 1857. Ancestors on both sides, farmers; father, a baker: deacon of corporation a year or two before he died, about 1863. Mr Watson brought up for first ten years of his life in country on grandfather's farm. Joined the High School of Glasgow in 1867, and was educated there. Took a good place in most classes—received prizes in Latin and Mathematics. Went from High School to Glasgow College in 1874. Held Forfar Bursary (£20) for four years, also Town Council Bursary in Divinity Hall for three years; was 1<sup>st</sup> in Middle Mathematics: 6<sup>th</sup> in Logic: 5<sup>th</sup> in Moral Philosophy: 2<sup>nd</sup> in Political Economy: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (with two special prizes) in Hebrew: 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> each year in Divinity Hall: 3<sup>rd</sup> in Biblical Criticisms: 1<sup>st</sup> (special) in Church History: graduated in Arts and Theology, M.A. and B.D.: was treasurer and President of University Missionary Society, and member of Conservative Club Committee: was for two years Missionary to Dr. Burns, Glasgow Cathedral, and has brother an elder of same. Licensed by Glasgow Presbytery in May, 1882: assistant to Rev. Mr King, New Kilpatrick, 1882-83, working in that capacity

chiefly among the miners of Netherton and Knightswood. In Oct., 1883, was ordained by Dumbarton Presbytery as Missionary to Madras, India, and wrought for a year chiefly in the Church of Scotland Institution along with Principal Sinclair, who recently died. Had a serious illness, and was ordered home at end of 1884 : was appointed assistant to Rev. David Hunter, St. Mary's Parish, Partick—March, 1885 : Oct., 1887 ; Inducted to Renton, 18th Oct., 1887.

Mr Watson is a Burgess of the City of Glasgow, and member of the Corporation of Bakers. He is also Chaplain of Lodge St. Bryde, Uddingstone (579), and hon. member of the "Star of the Vale" Sons of Temperance Lodge, Renton. Married in July, 1888, and has one son.

#### MILLBURN FREE CHURCH AND BURYING GROUND.

This place of worship and its adjoining place of sepulture, at the north end of Renton, owe their origin to the Disruption of 1843, which rent asunder the goodly structure of the Church of Scotland. In 1845 the late William Campbell, laird of Tullichewan, erected at his own expense the elegant small Gothic chapel of Millburn—which is adorned with a fine ornate steeple—and also secured ample ground around the same for a sleeping place for the dead. This place of prayer was opened on December 14th, 1845. In May, 1846, the church was sanctioned as a separate charge. The congregation, on 4th January, 1847, called the Rev. John Isdale to become their minister ; but the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy refused to sanction his translation. After this repulse, the people—in Nov., 1847—gave a unanimous call to the Rev. Walter M'Kay Dempster, who had been acceptably labouring amongst them for some time previous. The call was signed by 91 members and 46 adherents. This call was not in vain, for the reverend gentleman answered favourably. He was ordained to the charge on 24th February, 1848. For fully

forty years Mr Dempster went out and in amongst the villagers as a faithful pastor, who took a warm interest, not only in the spiritual affairs of his flock, but also in their temporal ones.

On account of the infirmities incidental to advancing years, he resigned his charge in June, 1888—so far as discharging the active duties of the same were concerned—and died 3rd August, 1891, aged 75. His colleague, the Rev. John Blades, succeeded him in the charge, and was ordained on Wednesday, 11th March, 1891. This divine is a Dumbartonshire man, having been born in Cumbernauld in December, 1856. His parents having removed to Armadale, there their son was brought up and educated. In course of time Mr Blades went to Glasgow, where he engaged for a short time in business pursuits, being cashier to a large firm. He also closely allied himself at this period with Free Saint Mark's Church, Glasgow, of which he was Sabbath School Superintendent, and one of the most active and efficient members of the church in all its various organisations.

Mr Blades having resolved to devote himself to the work of the ministry, with a view to the same he studied in the University of Glasgow, and at the close of his curriculum he went to Addiewell as a missionary, where he ministered most diligently, his labours having been crowned with much success. He having conducted worship in Millburn Free Church, the members thereof at once came to the conclusion that at last the hour had brought the longed-for man, and, immediately on his being licensed by the Free Church Presbytery of Glasgow, the congregation put into his hands a unanimous call, which was at once accepted by him.

Before the ground around Millburn Free Church was set apart for the burying of the dead, the deceased villagers were buried, either in the graveyard connected with the Relief Church (now U.P.); West Bridgend, Dumbarton; in Bonhill Churchyard; or in the Parish Kirkyard at Cardross, between the latter of which and Renton the steep hill of Carman rears its smooth, grassy

form. During the journey from the one place to the other over the connecting road, some of the most beautiful views in Scotland are obtained, the whole valley of the Leven and a goodly portion of Lochlomond being spread out before the gaze on the one side, and the Vale of Clyde and its noble firth are visible for many a league on the other.

I will now in this connection give a few brief sketches of

#### SOME NOTABLE DECEASED RENTONIANS

whose mortal remains, in the majority of cases, are interred in the God's Acre of Millburn Church.

DAVID AUCHINVOLE, J.P.,

was for many years a well known figure on the streets of Renton. He was a joiner by trade, and served his apprenticeship with James M'Alester of Dumbarton. At an early date he became lessee of the Leven fishings at Dalquhurn, and as the fish were numerous and far famed for their quality, this turned out a very lucrative business, which enabled him in a few years to retire from it in easy circumstances. Having plenty of spare time on his hands, and being of a genial, happy, and obliging temperament, he made himself very useful in the village of which he was jocularly called provost. He was widely known and highly respected. He was fond of a good story and a spicy joke, and being often in the shop of his brother-in-law, Peter M'Kellar, a grocer and spirit merchant, immediately below where he lived, he had many opportunities of meeting a large number of friends "oe'r a wee drappie o't." He was a keen sportsman, and enjoyed shooting very much ; and he often shot over the moors in the vicinity along with the late William Stirling of Dalquhurn. David Auchenvole was also very fond of the "roaring game," and was a keen, keen curler, playing often on Carnian Loch with evident relish. Now Renton knoweth no more this genial soul. Long

ago he departed thence, “to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns.”

PETER M‘KELLAR,

who began life as a calico printer, was for many years a grocer and spirit merchant in the Main Street of Renton. His house was the principal place of business in the village, and was used by Mr Smollett’s factors in collecting his feu duties, and is still used for this purpose. Mr M‘Kellar was for many years a leading villager, and took an active part and a deep interest in all the old institutions of the place, such as : “The Charity School Society,” “The Public School Society,” and the “Renton Public Library.” He was a pleasant man, a good story-teller and an admirable joker, and had a large fund of anecdotes at his command. These qualifications made his place of business much frequented, and his company much sought after. He rests from his labours in the West Bridgend Burying Place, Dumbarton, where his tombstone declares that he died August 16th, 1862, aged 63 years.

RICHARD MONTGOMERY

was another well-known villager. He began life as a calico printer, and ultimately blossomed into a shopkeeper in the village. Beginning with earthenware, he by slow degrees and more and more became a general merchant. Along with much simplicity of character, his manner had a tendency to lead a stranger to think that he was somewhat harsh in disposition, but he possessed warm and kindly feelings, and in the high jinks of the old villagers, he often took an active part. His views on politics in the old days when Chartism was rampant might be considered extreme. He was an enthusiastic “Free Mason,” and took great interest in lodge matters in general, and particularly in the decoration of the late Mr Murray’s Masonic Hall in Black Bull Inn. The embellishments were executed principally under his

superintendence, and when completed a number of friends entertained him to supper, and presented him with his portrait, which still hangs on the wall of Renton Masonic Hall. His remains were interred with masonic honours ; and now the village of Renton has “a worthy” the fewer within its borders.

ALEXANDER SMITH, SHIP CARPENTER,

who was a Dumbartonian—born in 1815 ; died in Renton 1887, aged 72 years. In early life he was apprenticed to Deacon MacAlester, Dumbarton, to learn the trade of ship carpenter. In after life he was for many years employed by Messrs William Denny & Bros. at his craft. For a few years before he was called hence he lived in Renton, and held a post of some kind at Dalquhurn Works. Old Sandy in his time did admirable work in preserving the rights-of-way of the Dumbarton public in connection with the Washington Green, Grugie’s Burn, Strowan’s Well, and Mill Lade, and deserves honourable mention for his arduous, disinterested services. No stone marks his place of sepulture in the Renton place of graves—“True, ‘tis pity ; and pity ‘tis, ‘tis true.”

There is yet another name I would add to the foregoing list, and that is

GEORGE SCOTT.

In the early days of Renton the interments of its deceased inhabitants took place in various kirkyards in its neighbourhood, as has been already stated ; but there is a place of burial near Dalquhurn Mansion House tenanted by only one inhabitant, and that one a George Scott, erstwhlle in extensive business in Glasgow and abroad, who married Miss Stirling. He lived for a time at Dalquhurn Cottage, the road which leads to it and to Dalquhurn House being still called after him—“Scott’s Avenue.” He died in London, but left strict orders that his body should be

taken to Dalquhurn and buried where it now lies, beneath a stone of memorial having engraved on it a Latin inscription of which the following is a literal translation :—

HERE LIES  
 GEORGE SCOTT,  
 SON OF A MERCHANT,  
 LATE OF GLASGOW.  
 HE SOJOURNED IN INDIA FOR  
 FIFTEEN YEARS.  
 IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS RETURN  
 TO BRITAIN HE DIED AT LONDON,  
 ON THE SIXTH DAY OF NOVEMBER,  
 1767, IN THE 37TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.  
 HIS REMAINS WERE BROUGHT HERE  
 BY HIS BROTHERS CHARLES AND  
 WILLIAM,  
 WHERE HE WISHED TO BE BURIED.

It has been considered by many that this tombstone covered the remains of one or other of the members of the Smollett family who lived at Dalquhurn House, but that conjecture is erroneous.

#### FREE GAELIC CHURCH.

The Free Church Highlanders of the Vale of Leven, about the year 1850, being desirous of enjoying religious services in their mother tongue, secured a series of missionaries to conduct the same in a mission house. In 1856, when the numbers of those worshipping in that place had considerably increased, they erected the Renton Free Gaelic Church. To this charge the Rev. Alexander Cameron was ordained in 1859. He was translated to Brodick, Arran, in 1865, and has a year or two ago deceased. He was an eminent Gaelic scholar.

The Rev. Mr Cameron's immediate successors in Renton were the Revs. James Dempster, translated to Lybster in 1879 ; D. Colvin, who after a ministry of four years was called to Auchter-

arder, 1884 ; and Alexander Miller, present minister, inducted 1884.

The Rev. A. Miller was born in the parish of Dores, near banks of Loch Ness, Inverness-shire, 5th November, 1843. He was educated at Dores Parish School, and High School, Inverness. Entered Glasgow Free Church Normal Seminary in the beginning of 1863. Went through the usual course of training for two years there. At Christmas, 1865, was appointed assistant master in a Free Church School, Edinburgh (afterwards a public school). Went through the University curriculum in Arts while employed in this School, gaining some prizes in University. Was then appointed one of the Masters in George Watson's College School for boys, Edinburgh, where he continued for two years, when he was appointed to the head-mastership of school where previously assisted. In this school continued till entered New College, Edinburgh, to study for the ministry of the Free Church, in Nov., 1876. Had good deal to do in musical world in Edinburgh, by way of training choirs, musical associations, &c. Licensed by Edinburgh Free Presbytery in May, 1880. Then took charge of preaching station at Invergarry, Inverness-shire, for three months, and afterwards of Struan station for several months. Called to the Free Church Congregation, Kirkmichael, Banffshire, in 1881, and ordained there first Sabbath of June same year. Called to Gaelic Church, Renton, 1884. Call accepted, although Kirkmichael congregation unanimously petitioned Free Presbytery of Abernethy to set call aside. Inducted in Renton on 10th June, 1884. Married, on 16th Sept., 1884, second daughter of Rev. Colin Sinclair, Free Church, Invergordon.

Mr Miller is author of a work on "Everlasting Salvation," which is an able production of a severely Calvinistic type, published in 1887, in which year he also issued a pamphlet on "Armenianism and Evangelism."

On account of dissatisfaction arising from causes which need not be stated, quite a number of members and adherents of the Free Gaelic Church, hived off from it and settled in a temporary place of worship, being ministered to by probationers of the Free Church. Quite recently serious attempts were made to have the congregation constituted by the Presbytery into a regular charge. If this be acceded to, it will bring up the number of Free Churches in the village to four. The Free Church Presbytery of Dumbarton has ineffectually tried, time after time, to bring about the fusion of parties, so as to lessen the number ; but “ Wilfu’ men maun ha’e their way.” When friends fall out, the strife is bitter.

#### UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

A few years ago, the United Presbyterians of Renton found themselves numerically strong enough to erect a temporary wooden house of worship, to which the Rev. David Sutherland was ordained first minister in 1882. From small beginnings, the number attending this church has increased wonderfully. In 1890 a successful bazaar was held to raise funds for the erection of a new church, for which purpose the firm of Messrs William Stirling & Sons, in the most generous and catholic spirit, voted £100. Mr Alexander Wylie, the resident partner of the firm, stated at the close of the bazaar that, in the event of the congregation erecting a manse within the bounds of Renton for their minister within two years from October, 1890, his firm would grant for that object £200. The congregation have arranged to purchase the Parish Church when it is vacated, for the sum of £400.

This ends my rapid *resume* of the history of the six churches of the village of Renton—a number probably unparalleled by that of any other place of similar population (5000) in the United Kingdom,

## RECENT IMPROVEMENTS.

Since I first wrote in a former book of the village of Renton, many things have happened in its history. In 1882 its drainage, its water supply, and its general sanitary condition were in a very unsatisfactory state—so much so that the Board of Supervision declared to the Local Authority that if these matters were not forthwith put right by them, they would be put right for them at their cost. This threat led to immediate action being taken. A Provisional Order was obtained, the necessary cash arranged for, and the work pushed so energetically forward that the ample and pure gravitation water supply from Carman Hill was turned on to the village by Mr Alexander Wylie of Cordale, the good genius of the place; on 16th October, 1886, to the great joy of the inhabitants. The storage pond is so ample that, if required, it could be made to contain one hundred million gallons of water. The opening day was one ever to be remembered in the history of Renton, for on it there was also laid the foundation stone of the Victoria Institute. The villagers on that auspicious occasion held high holiday. They turned out in their hundreds in festive garb, with bands of music, floating banners, and other signs of jubilation, marching first to Carman Loch, and from thence back to the village to assist in the foundation stone-laying function of the Victoria Institute. When these matters of great pith and moment were transacted, Mr Wylie hospitably entertained about three hundred guests at Cordale House. The entire cost of the drainage and introduction of water was £1200, which sum was borrowed at  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per cent, payable in thirty years. Mr Wylie, to emphasize the importance of the day, presented to the inhabitants two highly ornamental drinking fountains, which are much appreciated, and extensively drawn upon for the silverine treasures they freely yield without money and without price.

In my early days Renton was an old-fashioned place—a sort of sleepy hollow. The oil cruizie and the candle of tallow illumin-

ated o' nights the dwellings of the people ; and one chapel—that of the Cameronians—afforded the natives spiritual illumination. Since those primitive times there have been erected two Free Churches, one Established Church, to which a parish has been assigned ; and a United Presbyterian Church. The onward movement of the village began with the introduction of gas in 1860. That illuminant apparently threw light on many deficiencies in the social economics of the place, to which the people did well to take heed. In 1882 the Public Hall was built, and on it and the other three public schemes already mentioned there was spent the not inconsiderable sum of £8000.

The people of Renton, since ever it was a village, were a reading set. In 1797 they founded a library, which ultimately found a resting place in the village school. As time went on it was considered that this was not the most suitable place for its habitation. A member of the committee which had charge of the library suggested that it should be housed in a more suitable place, which led up to the erection of the Victoria Institute, consisting of library, reading, and recreation rooms. The library contains three thousand volumes, which is a very creditable number indeed for the place, all things considered. Towards the building and equipping of the Institute the firm of William Stirling & Sons gave £600 ; P. B. Smollett, lord of the manor, gave £250 ; and the goodly sum of £500 was secured by voluntary subscriptions obtained from divers parties.

The foundation stone of this important public building was laid by Patrick Boyle Smollett of Bonhill on 16th October, 1886, and it was opened to the public, with an imposing ceremony, by Alexander Wylie of Cordale, on 21st June, 1887. I was present on the latter occasion by invitation, and I and those who were similarly situated were hospitably entertained after the event, *al fresco*, in the Cordale House policies, in tip top style. The weather was glorious, and all went merry as a marriage bell.

This Institute is being favourably taken advantage of. At present (1891) the membership is 169. 738 volumes have been issued from the library during one quarter, which is an increase of 25 compared with the corresponding quarter of last year. The library comprises history, literature, essays, biographies, poetry, magazines, miscellaneous literature, religious works, fiction, arts and sciences, geography, and travels. The reading room is now but poorly patronised, the average attendance being about twelve. In the billiard-room section the interest has fallen off considerably, which tells against the funds. The recreation rooms are attended fairly well, one feature in this department being a draught club, which is very well patronised. Financially this institute is largely indebted to the purse of Messrs William Stirling & Sons.

In the gay and festive time of my life, left now several decades behind, Carman or Dumbarton Cattle Market made a wondrous stir in the town of Dumbarton and in the village of Renton. The low of cattle, the bleat of sheep, and the neigh of horses going to and returning from the fair, was suggestive of far-reaching monetary influences which stirred even the trading instinct of the remoter Hebrides. The annual occurrence of the cattle market brought many gangarel bodies into the village. Some of these came a few days before, and some remained a few days after its advent. Their principal houf was Molly Lang's lodging house in Thimble Street, and during the time they were its inmates many a strange scene was enacted therein, which to the spectator conjured up visions of Burns' Jolly Beggars.

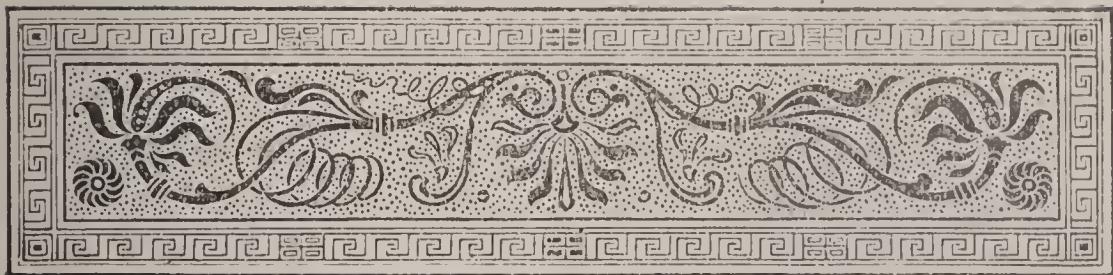
Penny reels were at that time prevalent in the village during the fair, and I am under the impression that over two score years ago, "In life's morning march, when my bosom was young," I participated in them on more than one occasion. The opinion of Mrs Grundy was not so dreaded then as it is now by the community. Forty years ago a wider margin was allowed within which

one might cut his cantrips and yet not be considered reprobate. The fair is now a ghost of its former self, and the big fights between the Dumbarton Carpenters and the Vale of Leven printers over their cups, during its continuance, are numbered amongst the things that were. The fashion of all things changeth. The picturesqueness of life has almost vanished. We have become virtuous, and profess to no longer love cakes and ale.

In my time, Renton has not only improved greatly in sanitary matters, but architecturally it has made most gratifying advances. There is a row of workmen's houses at the south end of the village which would be a credit to any town in the country, and here and there through the bounds of the place there are some indications of good taste in the style of new buildings which I was not prepared for. Notably is that the case on each side of the Main Street at or near the Cross. On the west side, there is a handsome freestone, turretted, picturesque building, somewhat in the old Scotch baronial style, used as business premises and dwelling houses; and on the east side there is a quaint, substantial, antique-looking edifice, used as dwelling houses, having one large pane of glass in the lower sashes of the windows, and a number of small panes in the upper ones. An inscription on a tablet, in the queer, auld-fashioned style of lettering prevalent centuries ago, states—House Re-built, 1890.

While the more central parts of the village have been much improved, the outskirts also show signs of advancement. Many charming villas and cottages rear their fascinating forms there, 'mid trim kept lawns and fair gardens, testifying to the wider diffusion of wealth and taste to what prevailed in our fathers' time. Renton bids fair to become, by-and-bye, a model village.

In conclusion it may be stated that the village was called after a Miss Cecilia Renton who in last century married Alexander Telfer-Smollett, grandfather of the present laird of Bonhill, and nephew of Tobias George Smollett, M.D.



## Chapter XX.

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### CARDROSS.

THE present village of Cardross is a comparatively modern one, and the name it bears applies, or rather applied, to the Sandpoint portion of the parish, opposite the Castle of Dumbarton, on which for many centuries the church of the parish and adjoining clachan stood—Ross, “The Point;” Car, “of the muirish ridge,” being its Celtic etymology.

The village in all probability took its rise in or about 1644, when the ancient kirk of the parish at Levengrove, Dumbarton, was shut up, and given over to neglect and decay. At that period a new church, the predecessor of the present one, was built, and a God’s Acre set apart for the burial of the dead in the new and more central position.

The ancient place of graves (with its guardian belt of noble trees) which lay adjacent to the deserted Kirk o’ Cardross, although not used so frequently after the house ceased to be a house of prayer,

yet, down to a date within the remembrance of one or two of the oldest inhabitants of Dumbarton, the interments were by no means so uncommon as one might think.

In 1805 the Levengrove estate passed from Richard Dennistoun of Kelvingrove into the hands of the Dixons, and John Dixon, the new laird, about 1820, caused the graveyard to be ploughed up, the gravestones to be displaced and destroyed, and the ground to be embraced in his policies. There are, however, still to be seen, near the ruins of the auld kirk, two old, large, flat stones of memorial which have survived the general wreck—one outside the ruined walls, without inscription, but having by way of ornament a shield and cross bones ; the other, which is inside the walls, has an Ionic cross covering its whole extent. On the one end of this stone there is engraven “*The XII APREL*,” and on the other end, “*HEIR LYES, 17.*”

Within the area of the small, plain, roofless, centuries-old kirk of Cardross, many members of the Dixon family are laid to rest. Suitable monuments have been erected to their memory. One of exceptional excellence has been placed therein by the present laird of Levengrove, to the memory of his father.

There was in close proximity to the sacred edifice a clachan called Under Kirkton, now entirely swept away, in one of the houses of which the venerable Alexander Ewing, erstwhile carrier between Dumbarton and Glasgow, now resident in the village of Cardross, was born.

The well which supplied the clachan with water was ycleped St. Shear’s, or St. Serf’s well (the holy well in which St. Serf baptized his converts). It also for many years did the same kindly office to the burgh of Dumbarton. It is now a drinking fountain for the frequenters of Levengrove Public Park, the gift of Messrs John M’Millan and Peter Denny, in which the fair policies, the goodly gardens and pleasure grounds of the Dixon family, are all now embraced, making an area of thirty two acres in extent.

This public park is indeed a most delectable one both for situation and for the admirable way in which it is laid out and kept. The cost to the donors was at least £20,000.

As far back as 1225, distinct mention is made in history of the kirk of Cardross, and for three centuries the Bishops of Glasgow and their Deans and Chapters held it. From 1480, when Robert Blackadder was rector of Cardross, down to the present day, when Mr Maxwell is its incumbent, twenty-three ministers in succession have attended to the spiritual wants of the parishioners. The present parish church was built in 1826, and is seated for 800. (The kirk it supplanted, of date middle of seventeenth century, was only seated for 400.) It has a noble, square, pinnacled tower, and is altogether a favourable specimen of the Gothic architecture affected by the more advanced heritors of Scotland in the erection of the churches of its era. Recently the edifice has been much improved, an organ has been introduced, and four memorial painted glass windows, representing Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, have been put in position by the following parties:—the late Colin Campbell of Colgrain; the late Alexander Smollett of Bonhill; Alexander Dunlop of Garbraid, and William Carstares Dunlop, in memory of their grandfather, Alexander Dunlop of Keppoch; and the last of the number was erected by subscribers in acknowledgement of the liberality of the deceased Mr Donaldson of Keppoch, in restoring and renovating the Church, thereby making it a beautiful as well as a holy house of prayer. The sacred edifice stands in the midst of its God's Acre, on a gentle eminence fringed with trees of goodly proportions. It overlooks the Dumbarton and Helensburgh road, and commands a charming view of the spacious firth of Clyde, the sweet village of Cardross, and its fertile, well-watered fields. 'Twere difficult to conceive of a bonnier situation for a kirk and kirkyard.

From the considerable number of local landed gentry whose

mortal remains have been laid in this hallowed spot to sleep their long sleep, within walls of hewn masonry, or ornamental railed-off spaces, having within their confines imposing stones of memorial, the graveyard, more especially at its western boundary, has somewhat of a city aspect added to its rustic beauty.

While the general appearance of the place of burial exhibits a tidiness which is an agreeable contrast to what obtained in it down to recent years, yet it can by no means be termed a garden cemetery.

Having given above a general description of the kirk and kirk-yard of Cardross, I proceed to give biographies of some of the more prominent of those who dwell 'neath the cool green turf and meek faced daisies, where stately on the Lord's day the air is filled with the voice of prayer and praise as it welleth forth from the sacred fane which rears its form in the midst of their lowly places of rest. The first to be noticed are several of the ministers of the parish.

The oldest gravestone that I can find in the kirkyard is that erected to the memory of the

REV. ROBERT WATSON,

who succeeded his father as minister of the parish in 1651, and died in 1671, at the early age of 42. He was minister therefore for twenty years, and can only have been twenty-two years of age at the time of his appointment. He was married to a daughter of Principal Baillie of Glasgow University, one of the most eminent, and perhaps the most moderate of all the Scottish Presbyterian clergy during the time of the Civil War. Shortly after the Restoration, when Charles II. came to the throne, a proclamation was issued announcing the restoration of Episcopacy. A number of the ministers in the Presbytery of Dumbarton were ejected from their parishes for remaining faithful to the Presbyterian form of church government ; but Mr Watson conformed to the new order

of things. However, of his parishioners there were cited to appear before the Commissioners appointed to suppress conventicles in Dumbartonshire, John Napier of Kilmahew and Lilias Colquhoun his wife ; Isobel Buchanan, widow of Archd. Buchanan of Drumhead ; and John Yuille of Darleith. Napier of Kilmahew, failing to conpear, was treated as having admitted the charge, and fined £3000 sterling ; Isobel Buchanan was fined in the sum of £100. John Yuille appeared to answer the charge made against him ; he was fined in the sum of £1000 sterling, and as he refused payment of the amount was conveyed a prisoner to the Castle of Dumbarton. These were counted worthy to suffer for righteousness sake. The inscription on Mr Watson's monument is in Latin verse ; I give it as translated by the Rev. Mr Maxwell, minister of the parish.

“ Sacred to the memory of Master Robert Watson.—  
Oh, sad to tell, this humble tomb contains Watson, for twice ten years  
parish minister of Cardross, a brilliant ornament in the mystic sciences, a  
helper of the wretched, and a distinguished athlete for the Lord : eloquent,  
fluent, in piety second to none : having fought a good fight, now encircled  
with the crown. He died 7th Sept., 1671, aged 42 years. ”

#### REVS. J. GARTSHORE AND OTHERS.

Mr Watson was succeeded in 1672 by James Gartshore, who was minister for twelve years, and was then translated to the parish of Tranent. He was succeeded in 1683 by Hugh Gordon or Gardener, who had been minister of Row for eighteen years previously. This divine was a very zealous High Churchman, who warmly espoused the side of King James, and resented the coming of William of Orange. This was manifested on the occasion of a baptism in the church. In reply to his inquiry as to what was to be the child's name, the father replied, “ William.” This was too much for the tory minister, who at once said “ Na, na ; we've had owre mony Williams already ; the bairn's name maun be James.” Mr Gordon was ousted at the revolution. His son James became minister of Row. He inherited his father's attachment

to High Churchism and the exiled king. Refusing to pray for King William and Queen Mary, he was libelled before the Presbytery, found guilty, and ejected from his parish. Mr Gordon was succeeded, in 1689, by one Neil Gillies, who was a few months later translated to Glasgow, and in 1690 James Gordon became minister of Cardross. He was “ane Ireland minister.” The inscription on Mr Gordon’s tombstone I have not been able to decipher; but I think the Rev. Mr Maxwell has done so effectually with the help of the Rev. Mr Watson of the Free Church. They had a very difficult task, but it is curious what a fascination a puzzle such as this offers to those of antiquarian tastes. It is in Latin verse; here is the translation, as executed by the Rev. Mr Maxwell.

“To the memory of Master JAMES GORDON, minister of Cardross. Gordon fell by the stroke of all conquering death, and his distinguished frame lies by this tombstone. He proved by his cleverness that the sublime parts comprehend more wonderful things than belong to nature; high-souled, in good things daring as eagle, but as to praises indifferent, nor did the highest wisdom lie hid from the learned man. Too early did the joys of the life above snatch him from us.”

Mr Gordon was succeeded by Archibald Wallace, who was inducted in 1695. He married a daughter of Donald of Lyleston. His monument is the flat stone in the corner next the manse. Mr Wallace was succeeded by

#### REV. JOHN EDMONSTONE.

who was appointed by the Crown to the living of Cardross, and ordained in 1726. He for forty-four years faithfully discharged the duties of his office, and sank to rest universally beloved. His remains are interred in the south side of the churchyard, where an ornate, quaint monument sets forth the record of his many virtues and accomplishments in elegant Latin, as follows:—

## M. S.

Ad hoc marmor, depositæ sunt reliquiæ  
Viri plurimum reverendi doctissimique,  
JOANNIS EDMONSTONE, A.M., V.D.M.,

Qui in Parochia de Cardross, per annos quater undecim,  
Pastoris praestantissimi muneribns functus est.

Ab adolescentia studiis optimarum artium deditius  
Verum et honestum sensit, coluit commendavit.

Rerum divinarum humanarumque scientia inter paucissimos excultus ;  
Erga sumnum numen pietatum, erga genus humanum amorem,  
In concionibus, in congressibus, voce multum vita magis,  
Docuit.

Ab initis officiis adusque vitæ finem staminis, firmus atque stabilis  
Virtutis veræ, pacisque Christianæ custos et satelles.  
In rudioris et labascentis mitis et misericores  
Etiam in turbulentos, vix ascerbus,

Menses Martii xxi, anni MDCCCLXXI  
Mortem obiit octogenarius

Andreas, filius natu maximus optimo, parenti moerens posuit  
V.S.L.M.

## TRANSLATION.

Near this stone are laid the remains of the very reverend and learned John Edmonstone, A.M., V.D.M., who in the parish of Cardross performed the duties of pastor with rare excellence for a period of forty-four years.

Devoted from his earliest years to the study of the fine arts, he lovingly cherished and commended all that was true and upright.

Endowed as few men are with wisdom in things divine and human, he taught in Synod and Assembly, even more by purity of life and work than by power of word and precept, the Fear of God and Love towards man.

From the commencement of his duties to the end of his days a firm upholder of honest virtue and an unswerving ally and champion of Christian peace, tender and compassionate to the ignorant and erring, patient and forbearing to the wayward, he died 21st March, 1771, in his 80th year.

Erected to the memory of his dear father, by Andrew, his eldest son.

The Rev. John Edmonstone's successor was the

REV. JOHN MACAULAY,

who was inducted minister of Cardross in 1774. He was born in

1720, at Harris—of which place his father was minister—and graduated as M.A., at King's College, Aberdeen. In 1745 he was ordained minister of South Uist. In 1756 he removed to Lismore; and nine years thereafter went to Inveraray and was minister thereof when Dr Johnson and Boswell visited that town during their journey to the Hebrides. The clergyman spent a pleasant evening with the travellers at their inn. Mr Macaulay's translation to Cardross was strenuously opposed by the ultra Calvinistic section of the presbytery on account of his belonging to the Moderate party, but it was ultimately carried through in 1774. He married Margaret, third daughter of Colin Campbell, Inversregan, by whom he had twelve children, of whom the youngest, John, died in infancy. One of the family rose to the rank of General in the East India Company's service. Another, Zachary, became a merchant in Sierra Leone, and on returning to this country became a most useful and prominent member of the party which then laboured devotedly for the abolition of slavery in the British possessions. Zachary, by his marriage with a Miss Mills, daughter of a Bristol merchant, had a son, the late Thomas Babington, the illustrious critic, historian, and statesman, created Lord Macaulay of Rothley. A sister of Zachary married Thomas Babington, an English gentleman, after whom the historian was named. John Macaulay died minister of Cardross in 1789, and there his remains are interred.

In 1790, John MacAulay's son, Alexander, was presented by the Crown to the living. He was succeeded in 1801 by Archibald Wilson, who died in 1839, and is buried close by the Rev. John MacAulay in the south-east corner of the graveyard, where a monument is erected to his memory. During the last twelve years of his incumbency he was in great measure unable, on account of ill health, to discharge the duties of his sacred office, and he was fortunate in having, during the last year of his life, the services of him who was his colleague and much esteemed successor, the

## REV. WILLIAM DUNN,

who afterwards lived and laboured in the full charge of the parish for forty years as its minister. He was born in the year 1811, in the parish of Doune, Perthshire, where his father held a small farm. His home was a simple, well-ordered, pious one, so that he was brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and started life under very favourable auspices. After a good sound training in the parish school, he went to college, first at Glasgow and subsequently at Edinburgh, to which latter place Dr Chalmers' fame in those days attracted many students of theology. On leaving college he held a tutorship for some time.

After he was licensed, his first appointment was that of missionary to the district of Stockbridge, in Edinburgh. He had not filled that post long until the "Glasgow Church Building Society," which in 1835 began the work of church extension, appointed him to the pastoral charge of their newly erected church of St. Peter.

The church was opened in May, 1836, and on 21st July following Mr Dunn was ordained as its first minister. In this charge he was eminently successful. After two years of hard labour in this field, he was offered the appointment of assistant and successor to the Rev. Mr Wilson, minister of Cardross, and accepted it.

Mr Dunn came to the parish in 1838, and succeeded to the full charge on Mr Wilson's death, in 1839. Those were stirring times in the history of the kirk of Scotland—the "Ten Years' Conflict" was in full swing, and in the parish of Cardross as elsewhere party feeling ran high; and while Mr Dunn sympathized to a certain extent with the "non-intrusion" party, yet, when the crisis came in 1843, he could not see it to be his duty to desert the Church of his fathers, so he remained by it and kept the great bulk of his congregation with him. After that time he took little share in the public affairs of the Church, henceforth devoting himself to the work of his parish and to the furthering of the interests of the Church in his neighbourhood. When the districts

of Renton and Dalreoch, within the bounds of his parish, grew too populous for their spiritual interests to be properly attended to even by his unwearied zeal and energy, he set himself to the task of securing their disjunction and endowment as *quoad sacra* parishes, and he never halted till that was accomplished.

Forty years before his demise, Mr Dunn married Miss Croil, step-daughter of Mr Donaldson of Keppoch, who by her admirable tact, womanly sympathy, and unflagging zeal in well-doing, strengthened her husband's hands in the parish mightily. In 1877, feeling the approach of those infirmities incidental to advancing years, Mr Dunn appointed as his assistant the Rev. William Maxwell, M.A., then just licensed ; and four years later, to meet the wishes of the congregation, who were desirous to secure Mr Maxwell's services permanently, Mr Dunn consented to his being ordained assistant and successor. For a few years before his lamented demise Mr Dunn resided at Helensburgh, but there he forgot not his old parishioners. He often visited them, to joy with them in their joy and sorrow with them in their sorrow.

Of a verity, when Mr Dunn died on 8th December, 1885, aged 74 years, he left this record behind him—that he was “a man greatly beloved ;” “a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and of faith ;” “a workman needing not to be ashamed of his labours.” Now he rests from those labours, and his works do follow him. On December 20th, the first Sunday after his funeral, Mr Dunn's attached friend and co-presbyter, the Rev. Dr R. H. Story, of Rosneath, now Professor of Church History in Glasgow University, preached his funeral sermon to a large and deeply affected congregation, the major portion of whom the deceased had baptised. His text was : “I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End”—Revelations xxi., 6.

Mr Dunn not only preached, but practised the gospel. His walk and conversation were becoming one who was an ambassador for Christ. His sermons were carefully thought out, and delivered

with much unction. His prayers breathed the very air of Heaven, and bore you up on their wings to the throne of the Most High. I loved to listen to the old man eloquent. Now he has entered into the rest that remaineth to the people of God. He is survived by his widow, a most estimable Christian lady, who is greatly beloved by all who know her.

The Rev. Mr Dunn's mortal remains are buried near the southern extremity of the west boundary wall of the kirkyard. The enclosure in which they rest has at its extremity a polished freestone wall divided into three pointed Gothic compartments. On the northmost of these there is the following inscription :—

In memory of the Rev. WILLIAM DUNN, for forty years Minister of this Parish. Died at Collinslea, Helensburgh, on the 8th December, 1885. "My God shall supply all your need."—Phil. iv., 19."

REV. WILLIAM MAXWELL, M.A.

This ecclesiastic was born in the town of Hamilton thirty-five years ago, and he received his early education at its academy. From there he proceeded to the University of Glasgow, where he made a good record. In particular, he was successful in gaining the Dowanhill prize of £21. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Hamilton in November, 1877, and on the following Sunday he began duty at Cardross as assistant to the late minister of the parish, the Rev. William Dunn. In February, 1881, he was ordained as assistant and successor, at the unanimous request of the congregation and with the cordial consent of Mr Dunn.

Between the two ministers the most friendly relations existed. As remarked by Mr Maxwell, in his sermon on the Sunday after Mr Dunn's death, the relationship in which they stood to each other was not like that of colleagues, but more like that of father and son. The Rev. Mr Maxwell succeeded to the full charge of the parish in December, 1885.

The parish minister is a member of Cardross Parochial Board,

in the conduct of the affairs of which he takes a warm interest, as he does also in regard to all other matters calculated to advance the spiritual, intellectual, and temporal interests of his parishioners. The reverend gentleman is much beloved by his flock, and on the occasion of his recent marriage he received tangible tokens of their esteem in the shape of a handsome present and an illuminated address.

JEAN WATSON, *alias* MRS MOORE,

certainly ranks among the most notable of all the people of Cardross, past or present. I know not where Mrs Moore's mortal relics lie, but I cannot do wrong in giving her biography in connection with my description of the God's Acres of the parish to which her munificent "Mortification" has been so helpful.

Her origin was lowly. In the opening of her womanhood she became a domestic servant in the household of Whitehill of Keppoch. While there she had been in the habit of betimes giving her indigent mother, who lived in the neighbourhood, a small piece of salt beef out of the barrel which contained the farmer's "mart." One dark winter morning, by mistake, she took from thence a fine tongue, which was pickled exclusively for her master's use, and handed it to her mother. It was not long till Jean found out her error, and then she proceeded hot foot to the maternal domicile ; but, alas, all too late to rescue the tongue from the teeth of the spoiler—it had been partly eaten. Overwhelmed with a sense of impending disgrace, the erring maiden fled from the house in haste, but her flight was arrested at the burn of Auchinfroe, which was in spate. While sitting disconsolately upon its banks, she is said to have vowed that if ever she had the means she would "build a brig o'er the burn," which in her brighter days she did—and placed upon it a tablet with this inscription : "Jean Watson. Not we, but God," which can still be seen on its north parapet wall.

The heroine of my little tale found her way to Leith, where she was married to a shipbroker named Moore, who afterwards settled in business in London, where he amassed a considerable fortune, which at his death he left to his widow. She, about the close of the 17th century, bequeathed to the minister, heritors, and kirk session of Cardross, for behoof of the poor of that parish resident between Auchinfroe Burn and Keppoch, the sum of about £700, to be invested in land. Out of that fund the trustees, in 1708, bought the lands of Ballimenach, paying for the same 11,500 merks Scots, equivalent to £639 sterling—or two years' purchase of present rental, apart from what is received out of the estate in the shape of feu duties, &c. It is computed that the capital value of the property is fully twenty times the original cost, keeping out of account what may accrue to it from further feuing.

#### BONTINES OF ARDOCH.

For well on to four centuries the Bontines had been a family of note in the Parish of Cardross. Their erstwhile estate stretches from near the village of Cardross on the west to Dumbarton on the east. About the close of last century Nicol Bontine conveyed it to his cousin, Robert Graham, second son of Graham of Gartmore, in whose line it in part still remains. Portions of the estate, however, have been already disposed of, and the rest is in the market, so that in all probability before long the Graham family as a territorial one will also go out in the parish, “like the end o' an auld sang.” The mansion house of Ardoch was in near proximity to Ardoch farm house, two miles or so from Dumbarton.

#### EDMONSTONES OF CARDROSS PARK.

This family, who owned Cardross Park, were connected with the West Indies, if I recollect aright. As far as I know, they have left no representatives, at least in this quarter. Their estates now form Kipperminshok and part of Kilmahew. Their

place of interment, which is now used as a mortuary, is immediately to the north of the plot wherein the Rev. Mr Dunn is buried. The dead Edmonstones lie in a massive, square, battlemented building, of about twelve feet in height. Over its wooden entrance door there is engraven the family coat of arms, having as crest a hand holding a pair of compasses, and motto on scroll, "Gauge and Measure." To the right of the door there is inscribed, within a circular moulding: "Charles Edmonstone of Cardross Park, died on the 29th November, 1827, in the 71st year of his age.

#### THE GEILS FAMILY OF ARDARDAN, ARDMORE, AND GEILSTON.

The Geils family settled in Cardross in 1798, when General Thomas Geils, of the Madras Artillery (son of Andrew Geils, Esq., merchant, Greenock), bought of his brother-in-law, William Noble, the properties of Ardardan and Ardmore. After the General's death, Major Edward Geils, his younger son, succeeded to these lands, and on Hill-Ardmore built a commodious residence for himself on a charming spot. The heritable subjects alluded to above continued in the family down to quite recently, when they were acquired by Captain Noble, C.B.R.A., the representative of the Nobles of Ardardan and Ardmore, who held these and other lands in the parish for many centuries.

About 1805, General Geils bought from the representatives of John Lennox of Antermony the lands of Geilston, and entailed them upon his second son, Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Geils, one of whose descendants is still in possession. The estate of Dumbuck, parish of Old Kilpatrick, was bought by the General about the same period from Sir Charles Edmonstone, Bart., of Duntreath, and settled on his eldest son, Colonel Andrew Geils, whose son, Captain John Edward Geils, still holds the property. He is the last male representative of the martial race of Geils, which gave for at least three generations a host of warriors to defend the honour and integrity of the empire.

One of the burying places of the family is at the north end of the Edmonstone tomb, and is composed of a goodly-sized, carefully tended plot, having in front a parapet wall surmounted by a railing, and at the back the boundary wall of the kirkyard, into which there is inserted a white marble tablet framed with freestone, bearing this inscription :—“In memory of Catherine Tucker, daughter of Joseph Tucker, merchant, and of Christina Geils, his wife : died at Geilston, January 8th, 1858, aged 80, beloved and respected by all. ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.’—Rev. xiv., 13.”

There are other three stones of memorial reared against the kirkyard wall, each having red granite slab and freestone base and border, standing about six feet in height. The most elaborate of these is the most northern. It is Gothic in style, and is surmounted by a cross, underneath which the family arms appear. At each side of the slab of this monument there is a polished grey granite pillar supporting the pedestal, the general effect being decidedly good.

Beginning at the southmost of the three headstones, the inscriptions run as follows :—

“Sacred to the memory of THOMAS GEILS of Geilston, Ardmore, and Ardardan, who died 20th November, 1869, aged 35 years, only son of the late Captain J. E. Geils of Geilston, and the Madras Horse Artillery.—Psalm exxi.”

“Sacred to the memory of THOMAS EDMUND GEILS of Geilston, Captain Madras Horse Artillery, born 4th Dec., 1805, died at sea 2nd Dec., 1845 ; and of CHARLOTTE E. FORRES, his widow, died at Greenoek 25th Nov., 1852, interred here ; and of CHARLOTTE MARY GEILS, their child, born 15th July, 1843, died 26th June, 1865, interred Nunhead Cemetery, London.”

“Sacred to the memory of THOMAS GEILS of Geilston, Lient.-Colonel H.M. 3rd Foot Guards ; born 18th January, 1777, died 28th March, 1828, aged 51 ; and of DORCAS TUCKER, his wife, born 5th February, 1780, died 2nd July, 1866, aged 86 ; and of MARY PASCAL GEILS, their daughter, born 17th May, 1804, died — May, 1836 ; and of DORCAS WEST GEILS, their daughter, born 21st April, 1807, died 19th October, 1867.”

The other part of the God's Acre of Cardross where members of the house of Geils sleep their long sleep is at the back of the church, in tombs to the eastward of the Dennistoun vault, into the east wall of which there are tablets inserted which contain the following inscriptions :—

“ In memory of MARY GEILS, daughter of Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Geils of Ardmore, born 9th April, 1778, died 3rd March, 1828; widow of Thomas Cooksley, Lieutenant, Madras Artillery, killed at Seringapatam, 1799; and of Courtney Crow Kenny, Captain H.M. 9th Foot, killed at Burgos 1812.

In memory of Lieut.-General Geils of Ardmore, son of Andrew Geils, Esq., merchant, Greenock, and of CATHERINE DONALD, his wife, daughter of Thomas Donald, Esq., of Geilston; born 20th July, 1747, died at Ardmore 24th October, 1815, after a long and distinguished service in the H.E.I. Company's Artillery, Madras Presidency; and in memory of MARY PASCAL, his wife.”

“ In memory of EDWARD GEILS, Esq., of Ardmore, Major H.M. 19th Light Dragoons (Laneers); born 21st February, 1779, died 12th February, 1836; youngest son of Lieut.-General Thomas Geils of Ardmore.”

“ In memory of JOSEPH TUCKER GEILS, Major H.E.I.C.S., 60th Regiment B.N.I.; born at Geilston, November 22, 1808, died at Geilston, October 18th, 1871.—‘Looking unto Jesus.’—Heb. xii, 2.”

“ To the memory of JESSIE (Janet), the beloved wife of Captain J. T. Geils, 60th Regiment, B.N.I., who was removed from this world of care and sorrow at Landour, East India, on the 6th of June, 1850, and is here interred.

‘ But, ye beloved, buikling up yourselves in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yonrselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.’ ”

“ Sacred to the memory of MARY ANN EVANS KENNY (grand-daughter of Lieut.-General Thomas Geils of Ardmore), wife of Lieut.-Colonel Edward Evans Kenny, died at Ardoeh, Cardross, 3rd April, 1875; and of Lieut. Colonel EDWARD E. KENNY, 89th Regiment, died at Liverpool, 12th Jan., 1879; and of their son, EDWARD GEILS COURtenay KENNY, Lieutenant H.M. 84th Regiment, died at sea in the Bay of Bengal, March, 1856; and of their son, HENRY THOMAS WILLIAM OXLEY KENNY, Lieutenant H.M. 84th Regiment, died at Cawnpore 24th August, 1857, with his regiment, under the general command of Sir Henry Havelock.”

“In memory of NATHAN WILSON, K.H., Lient.-Colonel H.M. 4th Light Dragoons, died in London, 1st August, 1847, aged 69—re-interred here January 31st., 1872; and of JANE TURNER, his wife, died and is buried at Kaira, E.I., Sept. 16, 1814, aged 30; and of WILLIAM JOHN, their son, born at Bombay, Aug. 27th, 1810, died 14th May, 1811; and of JANE CATHERINE, their daughter, born at Kaira. E.I., Sept 11th, 1814, died at Boulogne Sur-Mer, January 14th, 1842—re-interred here January 31st., 1872. ‘The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants.’—Psalm xxxiv., 22.”

Colonel Wilson was nephew of General Geils, Ardmore.

It may interest some of my readers to know that before General Geils bought Geilston, Dr Moore, of Glasgow, rented the mansion house of the estate from Mr Donald, its then owner; and during the doctor’s tenancy, his son, the great Sir John Moore of song and story, was when a boy nearly drowned in the Geilston Burn.

#### THE AUCHINFROE FAMILY BURYING PLACE.

Still moving northwards, we come to an enclosed tomb (a repeat of that of the Edmonstones). Over its door lintel there is cut out in the stone, “John M’Innes, Esq., of Auchenfroe, 1837.” In looking through the iron gate of entrance there is to be seen to the left a white marble table stone of remembrance, bearing on its face an inscription which I have failed to get an opportunity of transcribing.

There is another monument in the building, also of white marble, which stands to the right of the one described. It was erected in 1831 by Miss M’Innes, in affectionate remembrance of her nurse, Felicity Oglevie (a negress), a native of the West Indies, who died at Auchenfroe, 22nd May, 1829, aged 19 years, beloved and respected by all who knew her. The inscription on this stone can be read from the outside of the building, through its iron entrance gate.

Mr M’Innes was a wealthy West India merchant, sometime of Grenada. His wife was Isabella Urquhart. They had an only child, Agnes Joanna M’Innes, who was married to E. S. Gordon,

advocate, afterward Lord Advocate of Scotland, and latterly Judge of Appeal in the Law Courts of London.

On selling Auchenfroe to Mr Burns, the family retained a small cottage which stands on the estate near the railway, so as to still hold some little interest in the parish, in which for a period they played an important part.

JAMES DONALDSON OF KEPPOCH,

born at Netherbank Hill, Redgorton, Perthshire, 15th July, 1788, died at Keppoch, 2nd April, 1875 ; and of Jane Richardson, his wife, born at Glasgow, 24th September, 1790, died at Keppoch 10th March, 1882.—In peace. “Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come.”—Heb. xiii., 14.

So runs the inscription on the laird’s tombstone. Mr Donaldson’s body is buried at the southern extremity of the west wall of the graveyard, beside members of the Croil family and the Rev. Mr Dunn. The front portion of the space wherein they lie is fenced off by a low parapet wall and ornamental iron railing.

Mr Donaldson was a most amiable county gentleman, of the old courtly school. He was a universal favourite. He contributed very liberally towards the erection and endowment of the *quoad sacra* churches of Renton and Dalreoch, as well as to the general schemes of the Church of Scotland and other laudable objects.

In Dalreoch Church there is a beautiful tablet erected to his memory. The design of this work of art is in the form of an ornamental Gothic arch, of Cayenne stone, having red streaked marble pillars, and with marble slab set in arch, on which is the following inscription :—

“In honour of JAMES DONALDSON of Keppoch, who (besides largely contributing to the Church), in conjunction with the Endowment Committee of the Church of Scotland, munificently erected the district into the Parish of Dalreoch in the year 1873. ‘Blessed are ye who sow beside all waters.’ Isaiah 32, 20.”

Mr Donaldson, early in his business career, became a clerk in the head office of Mr Croil, West India merchant, Glasgow. In course of time he was dispatched as book-keeper to the estate owned by the firm in the West Indies. After a period of time thus spent he returned to Glasgow, and, his employer having died, he succeeded him in his wife, family, and business, and possibly also in a slice of his fortune.

#### MRS ALEXANDER WYLIE OF CORDALE.

Near the north-west extremity of the God's Acre of the parish there is to be seen, reared over the lowly tomb of Mrs Wylie, a monument of quite exceptional excellence. It is of Gothic design, in the form of the pointed arch, standing seven feet or so high. The lowermost step of the same is of grey granite, and the superincumbent portion is of white Sicilian marble, elaborately carved and beautifully proportioned. This stone of memorial has on it the following inscription :—

“In memory of ANNIE MYLREA WYLIE, wife of Alex. Wylie of Cordale, who died 16th November, 1883, aged 27 years. To relieve the poor and needy, to minister by the bedsides of the sick and suffering, to gladden and elevate Renton, ‘She did what she could.’—Mark xiv., 8.”

The sculptors are Messrs J. & G. Mossman, Glasgow.

Having given this most excellent lady's life history in a former work of mine, I will content myself with merely appending one or two sentences which arose in my mind spontaneously after penning the above.

Mysterious are the ways of God. Here was one of his ministering angels, whose life was devoted to the doing of good, cut down ere her life had reached its meridian. It is just possible that her sudden removal from the activities of this life may have been the means, in the good providence of God, of impressing upon many careless ones the necessity of being prepared for death, judgement, and eternity. “Oft-times the good die first, and they whose

hearts are dry as summer dust burn to the socket." The spiritual seed Mrs Wylie scattered so liberally is still growing in the souls of many, and blessing hundreds of humble hearts in the Vale of Leven which but for her agency might have been given over to darkness and despair. If "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die," then Annie Mylrea Wylie in her nobler essence still dwells amongst us, a powerful factor for good.

#### TOMB OF THE BAINS OF BAINFIELD.

Beyond the monument erected to the memory of Mrs Wylie there is the enclosed burying place of the above family. Its plain walls are about eight feet in height, and access is obtained to the ground within its bounds by an iron gate, through the bars of which I could see nothing, by reason of the bramble and other bushes which grew thickly within. When the affairs of the Napier lairds of Kilmahew, by reason of extravagance and litigation, began to get involved, several portions of their at one time large domain were feued, set at long lease, or otherwise alienated. The portion known as Bainfield was purchased by the Bain family. Colonel Bain inherited the property from a relative—Miss Bain. From him it passed to his son, Edwin Sandys Bain, sergeant-at-law, whose heirs disposed of it recently to Mr Burns of Kilmahew. The sergeant died at his estate of Livelands, near Stirling, 30th December, 1874, and is buried in the kirkyard of St. Ninians, and this country side knoweth the Bains of Bainfield no longer.

The farthest north of the tombs abutting on the west wall of the kirkyard is that wherein sleeps

#### HUGH MOODY ROBERTSON EWING.

It is a sweet resting place beneath the green sod and the quiet, meek faced daisies. There is erected on that spot to his memory a white marble Latin cross, resting on three bases of the same material. The combined whole stands five feet high. On the

arms of the cross there is inscribed : “Blessed are the poor in heart,” and two of the bases contain what follows :—

“In loving memory of HUGH MOODY ROBERTSON EWING, born at Liverpool 18th December, 1859 ; Died at Cardross 2nd December, 1889.”

The deceased was a member of the firm of John Orr Ewing & Co., turkey red dyers, Alexandria (of which his uncle, John Orr Ewing, was principal partner). He was also Major of the local Volunteer Rifles, and was esteemed highly by everyone who knew him. He has left a widow and family, and troops of friends, to mourn over his early withdrawal into the land of silence and forgetfulness.

#### BURNS FAMILY OF KILMAIHEW AND CUMBERNAULD.

Their place of sepulture is situated at the north-west corner of the graveyard. The boundary wall, which here has been formed into a floral Gothic monument of many compartments, presents a very imposing appearance. Into the western wall there is inserted a red granite slab bearing this inscription :—“In memory of Jane Bayly O’Halloran, widow of General Sir C. Moyle Sherer, K.C. S.I. Died 22nd November, 1887, aged 73.” Upon the north wall, beneath the family arms, there is inscribed as follows :—“In Memory of James Burns of Kilmahew, sixth son of Rev. John Burns, D.D., of Barony, Glasgow, and Elizabeth Stevenson ; born 25th June, 1789, died 6th Sept., 1871 ; and of his wife Margaret, daughter of William Shortridge and Elizabeth Yuille ; born 17th September, 1794, died 6th March, 1880.”

James Burns, first of the family to settle in this district, was sixth son of the Rev. Dr. John Burns, minister of the Barony Parish, Glasgow, for the long period of seventy-two years, and who died in 1835, aged ninety-six years. James Burns, who was born in 1789, became engaged, in 1824, in conjunction with his youngest brother, George, in the steam navigation business, then assuming considerable dimensions. Shortly afterwards they

founded the Cunard Company, of world-wide reputation. The inception of the operations of the company was due to Mr S. Cunard, whose name was given to the undertaking ; but it was in great measure due to the Messrs Burns' tact, enterprise, and capital, that the undertaking became an accomplished fact. Of recent years the Cunard Company has become one of limited liability, but the Burns family still holds a large stake in the concern.

In the evening of his days, Mr James Burns retired from the management of the noble business he had done so much to found and develope ; but for all that, as a landed proprietor, a Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Dumbarton, a leading member of the Free Church, and as a man having many investments to look after, he led by no means an idle life. It may literally be said that when, on September 6th, 1871, he received the summons to depart this life, he died in harness, aged eighty-two years.

Incidentally it may here be noticed that his brother and partner, Sir George Burns, Bart., died 2nd June, 1890, aged ninety-five years.

James Burns was a man of large views and great liberality. He was a munificent supporter of the home and foreign schemes of the Free Church of Scotland. A few years before his death he, in conjunction with his son, John William, now of Kilmahew and Cumbernauld, built a new Free Church at Cardross, in the early English style of architecture, which is quite an ornament to the village.

James Burns, by his wife, Margaret, daughter of William Shortridge of Levenfield, Vale of Leven (one of whose forebears was Walter Spreul, Seneschal of the Lennox in the days of Wallace), left one son, John William, mentioned above, who now owns most of the territory which erstwhile belonged to the Napiers of Kilmahew and several other old families—and a fair domain these make.

Nigh to the ruined castle of Kilmahew, of old the goodly residence of the Napiers, the new laird has erected a mansion house which, for beauty of situation and design, quite excels any other in the parish.

In many ways John William Burns has greatly improved his various estates since they came into his hands. He has lavished money upon them to good purpose.

On the 10th December, 1861, the laird of Kilmahew was married to Helen, only daughter of General Sir C. Moyle Sherer, K.C.S.I., having issue James, Captain Royal Horse Guards; John William, Lieutenant 3rd King's Own Hussars; also Helen Sherer and Margaret Shortridge. His daughter Helen Sherer was married on 5th February, 1891, to Captain Archibald Spencer Drummond, Scots Guards.

In 1875 Mr J. W. Burns bought the fine estate of Cumbernauld, so long associated with the historic family of Fleeming, Earls of Wigton and Lords Fleeming, paying for the same £160,000.

The laird of Kilmahew and Cumbernauld is a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Dumbarton. He is also chairman of Cardross School Board. He was for many years chairman of Cardross Parochial Board. He takes a deep and intelligent interest in all matters affecting the weal of the county in which he has such a heavy stake. In politics Mr Burns is and always has been a Liberal, and in that interest contested for the representation of the county unsuccessfully, but for all that he made a good fight for it.

#### NOBLES OF FERME AND ARDARDAN.

The burying place of this old county family is at the north-western margin of the churchyard, immediately to the eastward of the Kilmahew burying ground. The place of sepulture is guarded in front by a low wall and an ornamental iron railing. The back is protected by the boundary wall of the graveyard, which is at

this point, as at several others, of hewn masonry of good design. Under the central portion of the back wall, which is raised somewhat above the ordinary level, there is a rough, square block of freestone inserted, evidently with a view to the arms of the family being engraven thereon. To the left of this there is a grey granite slab in the wall bearing the following inscriptions:—

“In Memory of ISABELLA DUNCANSON NOBLE, daughter of William Noble, Esq., formerly of Ardardan—born 12th January, 1830: died at Brooks, 17th February, 1870; also her two last surviving brothers, Lieutenant-Colonel JOHN NOBLE, C.B., Commander of Madras Horse Artillery, born 15th June, 1776: died 15th July, 1827; Lieutenant-Colonel JAMES NOBLE, Madras Native Infantry, born 28th July, 1788: died 30th April, 1877, in camp, while Commanding a Brigade M.N.I.—Jesus said: ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth on Me, though dead, yet shall he live.’”

The family of Noble of Ferme (near Rutherglen) has been connected with the parish of Cardross since about the year 1500, at which period it is known that Ardardan-Noble belonged to a member of that ancient house. In 1537 James Noble of Ferme became possessed of Ardardan Lyle (or wester), in whose family it remained till 1708, when it was sold to James Donald, first of Lyleston. Quite recently, Captain Noble, C.B.R.A., a descendant of James Noble, bought the property from the representative of James Donald. Ardardan-Noble, or Mid-Ardardan, continued, along with the estate of Ardmore, in the hands of male representatives of the family of Noble till 1798, when William Noble sold both of these properties to his brother-in-law, General Thomas Geils. These estates, after having been out of the hands of the family of Noble for close upon a century, have also just been re-acquired by Captain Noble, C.B.R.A., one of the most eminent scientists of the day, and a leading member of Lord Armstrong's firm, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

In 1630 William Noble became the possessor of the lands of

Ballimenoch, but his grandson in 1708 sold the same to Mrs Moore's trustees, in whose hands they still remain.

In this year of grace, 1891, the Nobles are once more territorial grandees of no mean order in the parish of Cardross, with which maugre the interruption spoken of, they have been intimately connected for over three hundred years. This consummation affords food for pleasant reflection, and also for moralizing on the rise and fall of families, and the mutation of all earthly things.

#### THE DENNISTOUNS OF COLGRAIN.

Under a projection from the north side or back of the Parish Church there is a Norman arch of fine proportions, over which there is engraved, "Burial Vault of the Dennistouns of Colgrain." The ancient, knightly family of Dennistouns of that ilk rose to distinction many centuries ago. Janet Dennistoun, by her marriage with Sir Adam Mure of Rowallan, became the mother of Elizabeth Mure, who married Robert-the Steward of Scotland, and gave rise to the proud boast of the house of Dennistoun, "Kings have come of us, not we of Kings." At the death, in 1399, of Sir Robert Dennistoun of that ilk, the male stem of the family was represented by the Colgrain branch of it. After about a score of members of said family had in succession enjoyed possession of the estate, James Dennistoun, sixteenth in descent from William first of Colgrain, in the year 1836, sold it and Camis-eskian to Colin Campbell, a cadet of the house of Breadalbane, whose son is now laird. Mr Dennistoun at same time purchased Dennistoun Mains, Renfrewshire, the property from which his old and distinguished family took their name. James Dennistoun was a man of refined tastes, who made many valuable contributions to art and general history literature. He died 14th February, 1855, and, being childless, was succeeded by his nephew, James Wallis, R.N., born in 1839 (son of his brother George), who is

the present representative of the Dennistouns of that ilk, a family which has, in the lapse of centuries, produced many men of great mark and likelihood. James Dennistoun's remains are interred in Edinburgh, where he died. At his request they were laid in the Greyfriars Churchyard, in the burial place of a former Sir Robert Dennistoun of Mountjoy, instead of in the family vault at Cardross.

#### DONALDS OF LYLESTON.

The property of Lyleston was held from 1466 to 1537 by members of Lord Lyle's family, when it was conveyed to James Noble of Fermie, in whose family it remained till 1708, when it was sold to James Donald, first of the Lyleston Donalds. In 1780 a William Donald held the estate, and it remained in the hands of his descendants down to 1890, when it passed again into the hands of the Nobles. The Donalds were engaged in the shipping and tobacco business—one of them, Robert Donald of Mount Blow, Lord Provost of Glasgow, being known as one of the tobacco lords.

The last man of the Donald family who died owner of Lyleston was possibly the most notable man of the race, and to his life I devote considerable space. The following notice, with the exception of the portion at the end relating to the Rev. D. Macalister Donald, B.D., is extracted from the columns of the *Helensburgh and Gareloch Times*, of date June 9, 1880. The newspaper article goes on to speak thus of the distinguished gentleman alluded to :

#### WILLIAM MACALISTER DONALD OF LYLESTON.

On the 5th of May, 1880, were carried to their final resting place, in Cardross Churchyard, the mortal remains of one whose face and figure must have been familiar to many of our readers. We refer to William Macalister Donald, Esq., of Lyleston, some time H.B.M. Vice-Consul in Ferrara. The last few years of his life

were spent among us in quiet retirement, and there were probably few who had any idea that in his younger years he was wont to stand foremost amid the exciting scenes of a public life such as is happily unknown in our peaceful country. Yet, though comparatively unknown in the land of his birth, his name is cherished in the land of his adoption ; and there, as they hear of his death, old men will repeat to their children the story of Signor Guilielmo, the English Consul, who, in the days of the Austrians, saved Ferrara from bombardment.

He did not profess the qualities necessary for the public life of this country. He laid no claim to cleverness. He was impatient of constitutional procedure. He could not fawn or conciliate, but he could brave unpopularity. On one occasion he drove in his carriage through a threatening mob of his fellow citizens, and carried supplies to a garrison of Austrians whom they were besieging. He came to the front as natural leader in a state of society where the qualities that ruled were physical strength and personal bravery, a will that determines, and an energy that carries out. The old man who at 78 used to spend the whole day upon the moors ; the young man who at 20 applied his strength to a burden till his left arm was drawn from its socket, was made of the right metal for the rough work of troublous times.

The story of his career is interesting, as giving us a peep behind the scenes of public life, and showing us how things are managed in times of anarchy.

The deceased gentleman was born in 1797 at Auchencarroch, in the parish of Bonhill, where the Macalisters had been established for more than 200 years. His mother was a Donald of Lyleston, to which latter property he succeeded in 1852, when he had to assume the name of Donald. In 1815 he left this country for Newfoundland. The following incident is characteristic of what Colonial office life must have been in those days. On the first Sunday after his arrival his Governor cut off the tails of his coat

with the remark that jackets were good enough for youngsters, and that church-going was for his betters. During his stay in St. John's there occurred two revolutions, caused by the Irish fishermen. On one occasion they burned down 300 houses, and during one of these outbursts Mr Macalister first witnessed the power of Rome. He was afterwards to learn its impotence in the Papal territory itself. The Irish mob and the military were standing face to face. The canons were aimed and the matches fired, but all in vain, when the priests came bearing a crucifix and scattered them all with a word.

On Christmas eve, 1818, he left Newfoundland in a small craft. There were 13 in all on board. On the fourth day from leaving port the vessel was cast upon her beam ends. They had to cut away the masts. She was broken and water-logged, and only kept afloat by her cargo, which consisted of oil. For 28 days she was driven about a helpless wreck. They had no fire ; they were cold and wet ; they drank the snow and fed upon raw food. Four of them died, and they were all fast sinking, when, on the 26th of January, land was sighted, and an old fisherman recognised that it was the harbour of Oban, to which a kind providence had directed them.

Four years afterwards, Mr Macalister was established in Ferrara, in the Papal states, as a hemp merchant, dealing mainly with the British Government. For a store he hired a church, and for workmen he employed the very lowest of the population. These were men under police supervision, who were locked up every night to keep them out of mischief. Naturally enough, such treatment demoralised them more and more. Mr Macalister took as many of these poor fellows into his employment as he could. He obtained their release by becoming responsible for their good conduct. He put the men on their honour, and he never was deceived.

The following incident, though it occurred later on in his

career, will serve to show how even a ruffian trusts a man who puts his confidence in him :—A notorious brigand, by name Lauzoni, had fired across the Po from a village called Stellata at the Austrian sentinels on the other side. Orders were given to bombard the village. Consul Macalister was appealed to as the one man whose influence was paramount at the Austrian headquarters. He investigated the case, and after much trouble obtained the promise that the village should be spared if the perpetrator were delivered within ten days. Seven days passed ; the police had failed to find the man. Mr Macalister obtained information as to his whereabouts, went to him alone, reasoned with him, and promised that if he would give himself up all would come right in the end. The man trusted his word. He was condemned to be shot ; then pardoned and sent home safe. On another occasion, his carriage was stopped at night on the road to Bologna. A brigand entered. When he discovered who the occupant of the carriage was, he started back abashed. “I beg your pardon, I did not know it was you, sir” ; and then, after a moment’s thought, “I think it is better that I should mount with the driver, as the roads are not safe to-night.” The next carriage, containing a priest, was attacked and robbed. As a consequence of his growing popularity he incurred the enmity of the Jesuits, and in 1832 he found it necessary for self-protection to apply for a Consular diploma. The appointment was purely honorary, but it gave him a position among a proud local nobility, and in the troubrous times that followed, he was able to use it to effect.

The years 1848 and 1849 were years of revolution for the whole of Europe. Nowhere was the excitement more intense than in the north of Italy. Ferrara had renounced its allegiance to the Pope, and had constituted itself a Republic. The Austrians, however, held the fortress and dominated the city. Matters came to a crisis when one day an escort of Austrian troops were over-powered and murdered in the streets. The house of the Austrian

Consul was wrecked, and he himself only escaped by flight. The mob came along crying "Death to the Consuls." It stopped before the British Consulate. The Consul was cheered. All they wanted from him was a rope to tear down the arms of the Duke of Modena from the next door. There and then the arms of Austria, Naples, and Modena were burned, amid the yells of an infuriated populace.

Consul Macalister now found himself in the trying position of popular favourite in a seditious Republic which had renounced allegiance to the Sovereign Pontiff and defied the power of Austria. The blood of the murdered soldiers was still reeking in the streets when the word of vengeance went forth, and Marshal Haynau, the never-to-be-forgotten devastator of Hungary, came down upon the city like an avalanche with 15,000 men.

On the morning of the 19th February, 1849, Mr Macalister went in the ordinary course of business to Bologna, thirty miles distant from Ferrara. In the evening he came tearing home, as fast as his horses could wend their way, through a miscellaneous crowd of fugitives. The bankers were fleeing with their money, the merchants with their goods, the people with their lives. The cavalry had already surrounded the city, and it was only as wearing the Queen's uniform that Mr Macalister could obtain an entrance. Two despatches awaited him, one from Haynau, announcing that the bombardment would begin next day at twelve o'clock; the other from Cardinal Archbishop Vanacelli, requesting that he should join a deputation to the marshal. Haynau informed the deputation that he had instructions to levy a fine of £45,000, and in event of failure of payment within twelve hours, to bombard the city.

The Archbishop protested and implored, but Haynau had not come there to hear sermons. "Money," he repeated, "or bombardment." Without having gained a hearing, without even the most ordinary courtesy, the deputation was dismissed. When

the others had left, Haynau drew Consul Macalister away with him to his private apartments.

It is necessary here to explain the secret of Mr Macalister's influence with the Austrians. None of the diplomatic body could understand it, and it was all the more inexplicable as Lord Palmerston was intensely hated. His influence rested, in the first place, on a close personal intimacy with several of the Austrian Commanders, especially with Field-Marshal Count Nugent, Field-Marshal Radetzky, Marshals Winipfen, Shairn, and Welden, and all men in the first position in the Austrian army. The correspondence with these officers is full of references to family matters, and of arrangements for shooting parties, and this in the midst of public business of the most important kind. These men were desirous of peace, and in Consul Macalister they found a man who possessed the confidence of the Italians, and who, at the same time, was raised above the popular passions and prejudices. It is well known that many a dispute may be arranged in a quiet *tete-a-tete* that would otherwise have to be fought out upon a battlefield. In this irregular way Consul Macalister was enabled to act the part of a peacemaker. All he did was informal and unconstitutional, but he executed the duties of his difficult task with an uprightness of purpose that gained for him the esteem and gratitude of both sides.

The interview with Haynau lasted well on into the night. Consul Macalister used every sort of argument to dissuade from the bombardment. The money would be forthcoming the moment the wealthy citizens returned. He could at once have any amount in promissory notes, but Haynau would have hard cash, and he would have it immediately, and if they did not give it with a good will he would force it at the point of the bayonet. Personally, he had no dislike to sacking a city, and he knew his soldiers enjoyed it, poor fellows "Then," said the Consul, "there are plenty of good shots among the young men who will pick off your

officers with their rifles." But this did not do either. "Then give me time to post to Radetzky ;" but Haynau would not hear of it. At last, when every argument had failed, the map of Ferrara was produced, and the final arrangement made for the bombardment. There were to be no bombs sent in the direction of the British Consulate, but "That old fool," the Archbishop, was to be honoured with a regular serenade. Three carriages were put at the disposal of the British Consulate, to convey his family to the country. As the family consisted of an only daughter, the arrangement proved a great boon to the friends of the house.

When Mr Macalister returned from the fortress, he intimated to the citizens that he feared the bombardment was inevitable. The only thing that might avert it would be to gather what money they could. By the morning they had only succeeded in gathering a third of the amount. Consul Macalister brought it to Haynau, but he seemed more angered than otherwise. He would have every penny, or he would bombard the city. The argument of the preceding evening was resumed. Consul Macalister represented that he was about to destroy the city for a mere quibble, as he might have the amount on paper. Haynau replied that there was not a man in the city whose bills would be recognised by the Austrian authorities. Consul Macalister thanked him for the compliment ; he thought that the Commander-in-Chief—Radetzky—would take it as an insult to himself if his (Macalister's) bills were rejected, more especially when Haynau had come with letters referring, in the most eulogistic terms, to the British Consul's former services to the Austrians. "Then, if you give me your own promissory notes to the required amount, that decides the matter ; I must accept them, and to tell the truth I am heartily glad the business is over," and thereupon he took his hand and shook it warmly. For fourteen days the Austrian army lay before the city. All the correspondence was

directly with the British Consul. The Austrians would have nothing to do with the Republican authorities. Every morning there came in a curious document from Haynau. "So much bread, so much fodder, so much wine, &c. If it is not delivered by four o'clock the bombardment will begin at five." But at last the day of departure came. The authorities were summoned. Haynau told them publicly to whom they owed their delivery ; then the troops were drawn up in line. The Marshall and Mr Macalister rode along the line. Said Haynau, "These are the finest troops in the world They would follow me to the pit and fetch out old Satan himself." Then they all crossed. Haynau and Consul Macalister had their last bottle of wine together ; then they embraced and kissed (as is the fashion of the country) and parted. The scene ended in comedy. Mr Macalister hastened with the good news to the poor old Cardinal. The old man was lying on a couch. He raised himself to embrace his benefactor, who bowed himself and slipped so that down on the floor came couch, Cardinal, and Consul.

The troubles of the Republic were not yet ended. Haynau had hardly left when Count Thurn appeared before the city with 12,000 men, and demanded the immediate expulsion of the President, the resignation of the Government, and the return to allegiance to the Pope. The manifesto was sent in the morning; and by twelve o'clock the artillery was to open fire upon the city if the demands were not complied with. The members of the Government were besieged by the mob and so intimidated that they could not decide one thing or another. Mr Macalister was appealed to. He saw there was nothing for it but to deliver the city into the hands of the Austrians by a *coup d'etat*. He took his own council, went to Colonel Guidetti, the commander of the Civic Guard, arranged with him to withdraw the troops as the Austrians advanced. Then he went to Count Thurn and told him he need not fire a shot, the drum would do all the execution

necessary. Count Thurn hesitated before venturing his troops into the streets, but the chance was too good to lose. The Austrians advanced, the Civic Guard yielded their posts, the mob scattered at the sudden appearance of the bayonets, the wretched Republic was at an end, and an altogether useless contest was averted.

For a long time after these events Mr Macalister was overwhelmed with grateful acknowledgments from all classes of the community. Everything had to be kept as quiet as possible owing to the irregularity of the proceedings. Field-Marshall Radetzky brought the circumstances under the notice of the Austrian Emperor. Lord Palmerston sent his acknowledgments, and the popular enthusiasm was such that when, many years afterwards, he returned as a stranger to the city he was mobbed by the people wishing to testify their gratitude.

We shall now bring our sketch to a close, but it is not for want of material. Mr Macalister had indeed reached the zenith of his power, but in doing so he had incurred responsibilities and dangers for the future. He was not the man to shrink from the former, or to tremble before the latter. He was destined on one occasion to come under the suspicion of Austria as a revolutionary agent, and just about the same time he was mistaken for an Austrian spy in Bologna, and narrowly escaped assassination. But, severest of all his struggles was a long and bitter contest with the Jesuits, and with a Roman legate, who tried to ruin his good name. He had the satisfaction of witnessing the Jesuit College being forced by a company of young men, who compelled the Holy Fathers to treat them, and then packed them off to Rome; and as to the Roman legate, he was recalled and compelled to leave the town in disgrace.

From want of space we have refrained from transcribing any of the correspondence which otherwise would have illustrated and added interest to the narrative. As a specimen, we give the following letter from the Papal Secretary of State, which will show the

high consideration in which Mr Macalister was held, even before his great services at the time of the threatened bombardment in 1849. He had been applied to with the view of obtaining the withdrawal of the Austrian troops from the Pope's territory.

Rome, 6th Sept., 1848.

SIGNOR CONSUL,—I have been informed, through our Ambassador at the Court of Vienna, that you have succeeded in your mediation between our representative and Lieut.-Marshal Baron Welden, and thus obtained the complete withdrawal of the Austrian troops from the Papal territory.

By doing so you could not but have merited the entire satisfaction of the Holy See, and in this instance you have again afforded evidence of your valuable and influential services, and of the interest H.B.M. Government takes in the invulnerable rights of States.

In rendering you all merited eulogy, I have to express our sincere thanks due to you on this occasion, and it is with much pleasure that I take advantage of this opportunity to profess the sense of my own sincere esteem.

(Signed) G. CARDINAL SOGLIO, Seey. of State.

Those who can remember the fire that would kindle in the old man's eye at the recollection of bygone days must yield to the conclusion, that there is something heroic in the indomitable purpose of a bold, honest, self-sacrificing spirit.

Duncan Macalister Donald, who succeeded his father as laird of Lyleston, studied for the ministry, and left the University with the degree of B.D. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Dumbarton. He was appointed assistant minister of Dumbarton, and secured the entire confidence and esteem of both the minister and the people for his manly, consistent Christian character and unselfish devotion to duty. When he was elected minister of Moulin, Pitlochry, Perthshire, a few years ago, he received a handsome present of close upon one hundred pounds in value, as a memento of the love which the members and adherents of the Church of Dumbarton bore for him, and as a token of the interest they took in his future career.

On 31st January, 1888, the Rev. D. Macalister Donald, B.D., married Miss Frances Swathy, Toronto, Canada.

In 1890 he disposed of Lyleston to Captain Noble, C.B.R.A., the representative of the family from whom James Donald bought the estate in 1708. The whirligig of time brings round many changes.

#### CAMPBELLS OF COLGRAIN.

The lands of Colgrain came into the hands of the Campbell family in the year 1836. They were then purchased from the Dennistouns, their ancient possessors, by Colin Campbell, Esq., third son of John Campbell, Esq., of Morreston, Lanarkshire, who traced his descent from Colin Campbell of Glenurchy, ancestor of the noble house of Breadalbane.

A portion of the mansion house of Colgrain bears date 1648 ; but since that period it has been remodelled and largely added to.

The family tomb is situated on the left hand side of Cardross Church. On the wall of the enclosure there are tablets inscribed as follows :—

“ In memory of COLIN CAMPBELL, Esq., of Colgrain, born 8th January, 1782, died 22nd January, 1863 ; JANET MILLER HAMILTON, his wife, born 14th September, 1795, died 23rd March, 1870 ; JOHN, eldest son of the above, Captain Royal Scots Greys, born 9th August, 1815, died 28th May, 1846 ; MARY, their third daughter, born 6th May, 1821, died 17th April, 1872 ; COLIN CAMPBELL of Colgrain, second son of the above, born 2nd September, 1819, died 20th February, 1886.”

“ COLIN JOHN CAMPBELL, eldest son of Colin Campbell of Colgrain and Jessie Middleton, his wife ; born 28th May, 1848, died 6th August, 1880.

‘ Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling.’

‘ Absent from the body,  
Present with the Lord.’”

William Middleton Campbell of Colgrain, eldest surviving son of the late Colin Campbell of Colgrain, was born in 1849. He

was educated at Eton College. He is a J.P. for the County of Dumbarton, one of H.M.'s Lieutenants for the City of London, and a Director of the Bank of England. In 1873 he married Edith Agneta, second daughter of the late R. C. L. Bevan and the Lady Agneta Bevan, of Trent Park, Middlesex, and Fosbury Manor, Wilts, and has issue:—Colin Algernon, born 1874; Ronald George, born 1878; Norman Robert, born 1880; Evan Roland, born 1887, and Agneta Elspeth.

Address—Coombe Ridge, Surrey. Clubs—Union, London; Western, Glasgow.

#### AIKENS OF DALMOAK.

This family, although only heritors of recent date in the parish of Cardross, were landowners in the eastern district of Dumbartonshire and adjoining portions of Lanarkshire from the middle of the sixteenth century down to comparatively recent times. Although they do not inter in the kirkyard of the parish, yet I think it right to give their history in this connection.

About sixty years ago, three members of the family embarked in business in the city of Glasgow, and, by steady perseverance, intelligence, and enterprise, all amassed considerable fortunes.

Barton, the second of the three brothers, about forty years ago purchased the desirable estate of Kipperoch, formerly called Kipperminschock, now the property of his heir; and John, the eldest brother, acquired in the year 1857 the beautiful contiguous Dalmoak property, in the near proximity of Dumbarton, upon which he, on a most commanding position, about twenty years ago, built a goodly castle, fair to see. In the year 1860, John Aiken bought the adjoining lands of Succoth.

James Aiken, elder son of John Aiken, is now proprietor of Dalmoak, including Succoth; and he, three years ago, purchased from Graham of Gartmore the contiguous farms of Whiteleys, West Mains of Cardross, and Ardochbeg. Upon the combined

estates extensive improvements have been effected since they came into the hands of the Aikens. Barton Aiken died in 1889, in his 79th year, leaving issue one daughter. John Aiken died in 1875, in his 75th year, leaving issue two sons—James and John—and one daughter. The sons are members of the firm of Burns, Aiken & Co., writers, Glasgow.

#### BARRS OF BURNFOOT.

Not far from the tomb of the Bainfield family there is to be seen the burial place of the Barrs of Burnfoot. On the tombstone there is the following inscription :—

“ ROBERT BARR, Burnfoot or Bainfield, Cardross, who died in the year 1810, aged 31 ; PETER or PATRICK BARR, son of the said Robert Barr, who died at Bainfield foresaid, 15th May, 1878, aged 67 ; JOHN BARR, sometime also at Bainfield, and also son of said Robert Barr, who died at Helensburgh on 26th May, 1883, aged 79 ; ROBERT BARR, son of said Peter Barr, who died in Glasgow on 16th August, 1877, aged 33.”

The Barrs originally came from Lochwinnoch. The earliest trace I can find of them in Cardross is a certain John Barr, farmer, Kirkton, who married an Agnes Caldwell, about 1737. They afterwards removed to Dalmoak farm, and the late John Barr, farmer and innkeeper, Sealand-Bank (now King’s inn), was a son of theirs. All these people seem to have been *douce*, quiet-living folks, who apparently have held a tenacious hold of the soil on which they grew up. The son of the innkeeper of Sealand-Bank was the late Mr Barr of Bainfield’s father, Robert Barr, who died before his son was born. His (Robert Barr’s) mother, Isobel Niven—the innkeeper’s first wife—is referred to on the tombstone, but as regards her ancestry I know nothing definitely. This I do know, that persons bearing that name have been connected with Cardross from the period of the Reformation downwards.

The Robert Barr referred to above became ferryman at Cardross, and made with his own hands the “sheuch” down which the Kil-

mahew Burn now runs, for long locally known as "the dock." He married Elizabeth Lennox, daughter of Robert Lennox, farmer, Kirkton, who became grandmother of Patrick Barr, writer, Glasgow. The first house the young couple lived in was one recently taken down, which stood at the very edge of the mill-wheel. They next took up their abode in Bainfield House (now occupied by Mr Bain the mason, who, it may be stated, is no relative of the erstwhile proprietors of the Bainfield property. This house, which stands on the north side of the highway, was for a long time occupied by the Misses Bain, the liferentrixes of Bainfield). This Robert Barr at that time kept the ferry-house, and sold liquor in it. He died very suddenly of British Cholera, and his widow carried out his intention of building a house for the inn and ferry, under a lease of 66 years, got from the Bains. This house, which is situated at the south side of the highway, is now the property of John William Burns of Kilma-hew, the Barrs who now occupy it being merely tenants. Patrick Barr's father (Patrick or Peter) was born in the old Bainfield house six months after his father's death, he being the youngest of four—three brothers, John, Robert, Peter or Patrick, and a sister, Anne, who became Mrs Snodgrass of Mollandhu, lately deceased. The mother of these did not long remain a widow. Shortly after her husband's death she married John Fraser, a young man who was in her own employment, to whom she bore Hugh Fraser, James Fraser, Elizabeth Fraser, Agnes Fraser, Mary Fraser, and another daughter who became first wife of Archibald Niven, of Silverton-hill, Dumbarton.

Hugh Fraser became wealthy in Glasgow as partner of the great drapery firm of Arthur & Fraser, and Fraser & McLaren, now Fraser, Sons & Company. James Fraser died at Cardross, after being a potato merchant in Glasgow. Elizabeth Fraser became Mrs Davie, and is the last survivor of Elizabeth Lennox's family.

John Barr remained a ferryman, Peter or Patrick Barr became a lighterman and coal merchant, and Robert Barr became an innkeeper in Greenock, where his two sons still reside.

The most notable thing about the Barr family is their connection with boat racing on the Clyde. As rowers, they were never beaten on its waters. They were selected to compete with trained London oarsmen on the Mersey at Liverpool, and were there ignominiously defeated. John Colquhoun, author of "The Moor and the Loch," attributes their want of success to want of athletic training, but the Barrs set down their discomfiture to the inferiority of the construction of the boat they rowed. There is probably some truth in both of these reasons.

There were two eminent Cardross racing crews. The first or old crew, composed of John Barr, John Wilson, Charles Menzies, and Robert Barr; and the second or new crew, comprised of three Barrs and another person whose name I forget. Peter or Patrick Barr, John Barr, and Robert Barr, rowed at the Liverpool contest alluded to above, having as fourth man, as far as I recollect, James Fraser.

The present Patrick Barr's father and mother were cousins, his mother being Mary Lennox (who died June 24th, 1891, aged 78), daughter of James Lennox, Kirkton, whose sister was "Granny Fraser" of the ferry inn.

The Lennox, or female ancestry of the Barrs is probably more interesting than that of the male line. Robert Lennox, Kirkton, was son of Alexander Lennox, Miller, Millig, Helensburgh. Tradition connects his name with what James Lennox called a "freed farm" in Glenfruin, now part of the Luss estates. This free farm seems to have been gifted by one of the Earls of Lennox to a fair maid, hight Macaulay, who wonned in the glen, with whom he became enamoured and had established as an auxiliary wife on the lands referred to. The descendants of the earl by this primitive kind of connection, held the property.

for a considerable period of time. The Barrs, by the mother's side, therefore, were they of an aspiring disposition and set on letting the world know that they had "blue blood" in their veins —might quarter their arms with those of the illustrious house of Lennox, and decorate the same with a bar sinister, as is the wont of many noble historic families in the land, more especially those connected "on the wrong side of the blanket" with the Royal House, in whose veins their is Lennox blood, through the marriage of Lord Darnley with one of the three heiresses of the house of Lennox, and also through the marriage of his son, Lord Darnley, with Mary Queen of Scots.

#### ALLAN SNODGRASS, FARMER, MOLLANDHU.

This erstwhile buirdly, plodding, honest, steady, and prosperous man, whose mortal remains lie in the kirkyard of Cardross, was born at the farm steading of Knock, Renfrewshire, near the end of last century. The farm had been cultivated for a long period by his father and grandfather. He came of a long-lived stock, and to show how far back two long lives can take us, it may be stated that Mr Snodgrass's father, in the year 1745, conveyed the luggage of "Bonnie Prince Charlie" on horseback, from Paisley to Greenock, so that if the son was not a member of a historic family, yet one of his forbears brings us into close connection with an historic character.

On 2nd February, 1822, Allan Snodgrass entered on the tenancy of Mollandhu farm, the lands of which he carefully and intelligently cultivated for the long space of sixty-one years.

After being settled in his farm for five years, he took unto himself a wife, Annie Barr, to share his joys and sorrows, doubling the one and halving the other. This event took place in the winter of 1827, memorable for its heavy falls of snow. Honest Allan, when conversing with his family on the subject, once said : "There were nae carriages at my wedding, but, for a' that, it wisna

devoid o' state, for I took your mother home o'er a soft, beautiful, spotless white carpet (pure as her ain bonnie sel'), which was woven for the occasion in the lift, and laid down quietly by unseen hands." The "young folk" were kirked in Geilston barn, that being the place where prayer was wont to be made during the time the new church of the parish was being erected. A long married life followed this happy event, and many sons and daughters, in due course of time, rose up around them to call them blessed.

Mr Snodgrass had close business relations with Helensburgh and Dumbarton people. In the former place, he was on special terms of intimacy with Henry Bell of steamer "Comet" fame, his brother Thomas, Doctors Bryce and Lennox, and old Mr Breingan ; and in the latter place, his great friends were Alexander Macdonald, coal merchant, and Alexander Denny, Cooper, from whom he got his milk pails, barrels, washing boynes and luggies ; and from the farmer the cooper's thrifty guidwife oft got material to replenish her butter kit and meal barrel, giff-gaff thus making guid freens.

In those days glass-making was the staple trade of Dumbarton, and many stories the subject of this memoir used to tell of the high jinks that took place in the county town to celebrate the completion of the Messrs Dixons' annual supply of hay, to which he contributed largely.

When Mr Snodgrass entered upon his farm it was in a very rough state, but by reason of his untiring energy and skill as an agriculturist he made it quite a model one. He was the first to introduce tiled drains into Cardross. He squared all his fields, and kept the same most admirably fenced. The products of his dairy enjoyed more than a local fame. He was a workman who needed not to be ashamed of his labours. For many years Mr Snodgrass was an esteemed elder of the Kirk, and during his 61 years' residence in the parish was only on three or four occasions

absent from the ordinary diets of worship, and then only because of sickness in his family.

His last illness—creeping paralysis—was short. After a few days' suffering he, at Mollandhu, breathed his last on 1st February, 1883, aged 84. His mortal remains were interred in the God's Acre of Cardross on the 5th of said month. The funeral was largely attended. There was a funeral service held in the church, conducted by the late Rev. William Dunn, minister of the parish, who also on the subsequent Sunday preached his funeral sermon. The good old farmer, after having garnered many harvests, fell before Death's keen sickle like a shock of corn fully ripe. His memory is redolent of all that is pleasant.

On the 16th of June, 1890, Annie Barr, Allan Snodgrass's loving partner, rejoined her husband. Her end was peaceful. At her demise she had reached the goodly age of 84. She was a remarkably kind, pleasant woman, and a great favourite in the district. She is survived by six sons and four daughters. Her second eldest son, Robert, is now tenant of Mollandhu farm.

Having finished my notice of Cardross Kirkyard and of some of those who sleep therein, it may not be out of place to now give a brief sketch of the Napiers of Kilmahew, and of

#### THE CHAPEL AND BURYING GROUND OF KILMAHEW.

Within the bounds of the lands of Kirkton of Kilmahew there stand the ruins of a small chapel erected in 1467. Probably on the same site there stood, prior to 1370, another chapel, erected in all likelihood for the convenience of the dwellers in the neighbourhood, who had a considerable distance to travel to Rosneath, the church of their parish, on the one hand, or on the other to Cardross Church, the church of the neighbouring parish, on Cardross Point, now embraced in Levengrove Park, Dumbarton. The chapel of 1467, erected, endowed, and dedicated to St. Mahew by

Duncan Napier, was in the May of that year consecrated by George, Bishop of Argyll, in mitre and full pontificals.

The arches and mouldings inside of the chapel are in a fair state of preservation, and are worthy of attention as affording a good specimen of the early private ecclesiastical foundations of Scotland. The chapel was used at the Reformation as a preaching station by a reader under the minister of Rosneath, but it fell into disuse in 1644, on the re-construction of the parish of Cardross, when its church was erected on its present central site. In 1640 a portion of the chapel was turned into a schoolhouse, and a provision secured for the schoolmaster's maintenance out of the lands of Kilmahew ; and the heritors further secured to him the fees, session-clerk dues, and seventy merks yearly. Further, the schoolmaster, present and to come, was to be entertained by Robert Napier of Kilmahew, "within his ain house, in meat, drink, and bedding, so long as he shall discharge the duty of family exercise and prayer within the said family."

Surrounding the chapel of Kilmahew there is a burying place of equal antiquity, in which the dead of many generations have been laid to rest. There have been interments in it down to within the last few years, one of the more recent being a connection of the Napiers by either blood or marriage. The Napier family used this as their burying place from remote time. At the close of the thirteenth century, Malcolm, Earl of Lennox, granted a charter of the lands of Kilmahew to John Napier. In 1304 he assisted at the defence of Stirling Castle against the attack of the English forces. Eighteen Napiers in all enjoyed the possession of the estate, the last of the number being William Napier, a citizen of America, who in 1820 conveyed it to his brother-in-law, Alexander Sharp, husband of his sister, by whom an abortive attempt was made to enlarge and restore Kilmahew Castle, the old-time residence of the family. In 1856 Kilmahew was sold to John Barr, railway contractor, and by him three years after was

conveyed to James Burns of Bloomhill. Now the ruined tower which alone remains of the old house of the Napiers, as it rears up its time-battered head, is no inappropriate symbol of the fate which befel the family. John William Burns now owns their fair possessions. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

Having in the immediately foregoing pages dwelt on matters relating chiefly to departed clergy, heritors, and notable people of the parish, and some of their descendants and successors, I will now proceed to give short notices of living notables not embraced in the above category.

ROBERT BOOG WATSON, F. C. MINISTER OF CARDROSS,

was born at Burntisland, Fifeshire, where his father (a descendant of Peter Watson, the librarian of the Cathedral of St. Andrews at the period immediately antecedent to the Reformation), was parish minister. He was educated in Devonshire, Edinburgh, and France, and received the degree of B.A. from the Edinburgh University. In 1845 he joined Agassiz and De Sor in their expedition to the Aar glacier—the first occasion on which the winter rate of glacier movement was observed.

At the beginning of the Crimean war in 1854, Mr Watson was ordained chaplain to the Highland Brigade, and during the two ensuing years had more than sufficient opportunity for studying the frightful horrors of war. On his return in 1856, he was for some months chaplain to the forces at Dover and Shorncliff.

In 1857 he married, and was that same year appointed chaplain to Her Majesty's troops in India. He had thus occasion to see a considerable amount of frontier service during the troublous times of the mutiny. He remained in India till 1859, when he was invalidated home on account of dysentery.

He now returned to his scientific pursuits, and was, in 1862, elected member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; in 1863, honorary member of the *Lüneburg Wissenschafts Verein*, and in

1864, member of the Geological Society of London. In this latter year he was appointed Scotch chaplain of the Free Church in Madeira, where he remained for ten years. Thereafter, he was for some time in Edinburgh. In 1878 he was elected member of the Linnean Society of London. On the 23rd December, 1879, he was inducted to the Free Church of Cardross. For five years, from the year 1886 onwards, he occupied the post of clerk to the Presbytery, but having in the meantime been elected convener of the Colonial committee of the Free Church, stress of work has obliged him to resign the clerkship. Mr Watson is the author of a large volume on the mollusca of the Challenger Expedition, undertaken at the request of Sir Wyville Thomson. In 1889 he was elected vice-president, and in 1890, unanimously chosen president of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

#### ROBERT BUCHANAN, PAROCHIAL SCHOOLMASTER.

Well on for seventy years ago, the subject of this notice was born in the portion of Dumbarton which lies in Cardross Parish *quoad omnia*. He was educated in Dumbarton Academy when the long-deceased, much-beloved Gilbert Turner was rector thereof. In that seat of learning he gained silver medals and other prizes. He ultimately was promoted to a monitorship within its walls, and your servant, who writeth this memoir, was one of those who was placed under his charge for a time. Even at that early period he was the same steady, painstaking, thoroughly conscientious, intelligent teacher of youth that he continued to be, but in an ever-increasing degree, down to the period of his withdrawal from work, after having spent close on half-a-century in the teaching profession.

Mr Buchanan attended several classes in the University of Glasgow. He was successively parish schoolmaster of Doura, Patna, and Abercorn, and finally Cardross, where he laboured

about forty-seven years, and earned for himself golden opinions from all ranks and classes of the community.

The parish schoolmaster co-operated vigourously with the late Major Geils of Geilston in starting the Cardross Rifle Corps, and Mr Buchanan has for many years held the offices of Registrar and Session Clerk of Cardross.

He married a daughter of the late Dr Craig of Kilwinning, and has now been a widower for some years. Three of a family were born to him; one of whom Robert, is an M.A., and minister of St. James' Parish Church, Clydebank. The youngest, James, is resident in St. Peter's College, Cambridge, where he went after a most brilliant career in Glasgow University, and out of which he took third place in the Higher Mathematical Tripos, and third place in the Smith Prize competition at Cambridge University, where he is now resident as a tutor. The third member of Mr Buchanan's family is an only daughter, who lives in family with her father at Cardross.

I love to see my erstwhile monitor's venerable form in the old burgh town in which he spent his early days. The sight thereof conjures up memories dear o' auld lang syne within my bosom, not untouched by sadness, because of the great majority of those who were then my schoolmates having been consigned to the dust of death, leaving me one of a handful of survivors.

DAVID MACBRAYNE, CARDROSS PARK.

This widely-known and highly-respected man needs not the aid of illustrious descent to make him famous. But for all that it is an important factor in a man's life to be of such origin, and Mr MacBrayne has an honourable lineage—one of which any man might be proud. He is a grandson of the distinguished Dr Burns of the Barony Parish, Glasgow, and therefore a cousin of Sir John Burns, Bart., and Mr James Cleland Burns of the Cunard Line, and also of Mr John William Burns, laird of Kilmahew.

So far back as 1851, Mr David MacBrayne, in conjunction with Messrs David and Alexander Hutcheson, took up the carrying trade to the West Highlands, which had been for a period conducted by the Messrs Burns, in whose office the above named gentlemen were engaged. At the period of its transference the business was an unimportant one, but it gradually developed under the energetic management of the new firm, until it assumed colossal dimensions.

In 1876, one of Mr MacBrayne's partners retired, and the other went out of the co-partnery in 1878, leaving him sole partner. Being the entire master of the situation, he struck out boldly in the way of bidding for increased popular favour by building, immediately thereafter, the "Columba" (that floating palace of delight), then three years later the stately "Claymore;" next in order the "Cavalier," in 1855; the beautiful "Grenadier," in 1888; then the "Fusilier;" and thereafter several other steamers of various tonnage.

To give my readers an adequate idea of the magnitude of Mr MacBrayne's operations, it may be stated that he, in this year of grace, 1891, owns 35 steamships, manned by 855 men, and having in connection 696 agents, clerks, storemen, coalmen, and carters—verily, a considerable naval force, almost every member of which is personally known to his employer.

By the aid of Mr MacBrayne's noble fleet of steamers, access can be had pleasantly from the Clyde to the most romantic scenery of the West Highlands, embracing Ardrishaig, Oban, Mull, Skye, Stornoway, Thurso, Staffa, Iona, Glencoe, the Caledonian Canal, and many other points of interest.

Mr MacBrayne has confidence in himself, and inspires others with a like feeling. He has gathered around him, in the course of years, to carry out his behests, as fine a body of men as the world can show, all of whom look up to him with pride as their plucky, energetic chief.

DAVID MURRAY, M.A., LL.D., MOORE PARK.

David Murray, writer, Glasgow, was born at Glasgow, 15th April, 1842 ; is the elder son of David Murray, writer, Glasgow, of the well known firms of Murray & Galloway, and Murray & Smith—a skilful conveyancer and an active political agent of the Liberal party in Glasgow—who died in 1848. The present David Murray was educated at the parish school of Kirkoswald, Ayrshire (where Robert Burns learned geometry and land surveying), at Ayr Academy, and at Merchiston Castle School. He then entered the University of Glasgow, where he graduated M.A. in 1863. Turning to law, he entered the office of his father's old firm—then represented by Smith & Wright—served his apprenticeship and clerkship, and became a partner in 1867, the firm being then Smith, Wright, & Johnston. In 1869 he and the senior partner of that firm formed the new firm of George Smith & Murray, and on Mr Smith's death in 1871, the firm of Maclay, Murray & Spens.

Mr Murray has written the following works :—“ International General Average,” 8vo., Edinburgh, 1877; “ Old Cardross,” 12mo., Glasgow, 1880; “ A Glimpse of French School life in the Sixteenth Century,” 8vo., Edinburgh, 1881; “ The York Buildings’ Company : a chapter in Scotch History,” 8vo., Glasgow, 1883; “ The Black Book of Paisley : with a note on John de Burgundia, otherwise Sir John Mandeville, and the Plague,” 4to., Paisley, 1885. “ A Note on some Glasgow and other Provincial Coins and Tokens,” 4to., Glasgow, 1885; “ Disestablishment Aims,” 8vo., Glasgow, 1885; “ Bull of Pope Adrian VI. granting a Pension from Provand,” 8vo., Glasgow, 1887; “ Some Considerations in Reference to the Limited Owners (Scotland) Bill, 1888,” 8vo., Glasgow, 1888; “ The Law relating to the Property of Married Persons,” 8vo., Glasgow, 1891.

The above named works show that their author is a man of

culture and of large and varied knowledge, conjoined with great industry and deep research.

In 1889, his *alma mater* conferred upon him the honorary degree of LL.D.

In 1872, he married Frances, eldest daughter of Arthur Frances Stoddard of Broadfield, Port-Glasgow, and has since then resided in Cardross, where he and his most estimable wife have made themselves great favourites by their urbanity and the kindly interest they take in all matters affecting the welfare of the people. Mrs Murray is also of literary tastes. She is the authoress of a dainty little privately circulated volume entitled, "Summer in the Hebrides : Sketches on Colonsay and Oronsay," 1877.

#### MAJOR JOHN M'INTYRE, WOODNEUK.

This well-known man is connected with Cardross by descent, birth, and business. He was son of Archd. M'Intyre, joiner, wood-merchant, and saw-miller, who died in January, 1847. The future major was born in 1834, in the house he still lives in. At his father's death the business he had founded was carried on for his family's behoof by an uncle for a few years. It was then conducted on his own account by the subject of this memoir, who recently assumed his eldest son Robert as partner, they being also tenants of the Murrays' farm, Cardross.

John M'Intyre was married in 1864, and has a family of seven. He has, for the last 25 years, been a member of the Kirk Session of Cardross. In 1859 he joined the Cardross Company of D. R. Volunteers ; was for five years sergeant in it ; got his commission as Ensign in 1865, as Lieutenant in 1870, as Captain in 1880, retiring with the rank of Major in 1887, after 28 years' service. At his retirement, his eldest son got a commission in the same company, which he still holds.

The Major, during all the time he was connected with the corps, took the deepest interest in shooting practice—in fact, he

was and still is passionately fond of it. He went to Wimbledon for twenty-four years to shoot, and gained a goodly share of the prizes for which he competed. He was a member of the "Scottish Eight" four times, and a unit of the "Scottish Twenty" seven times, and twice had the honour of making the highest score in the "twenty." The Major was the first in the United Kingdom who made 13 bulls'-eyes in succession at 900 yards. This was achieved on Lanark Muir in the competition for the selection of the "Scottish Eight." He won the first prize in the "Windmill" competition twice at Wimbledon ; and, besides these, won other eighty prizes. At the Inverness meetings this crack shot won the President's prize twice. This prize is considered "the blue ribbon" of these meetings. He holds three silver cups, won at different shooting competitions—one of these, the Ingram Vase, costing £50, for long range shooting, had to be won by the Major three times before it became his property. Finally, Major John M'Intyre held the £100 Glasgow Corporation Vase for two years. The Major's record is a splendid one.

#### MAJOR WALTER BUCHANAN, CLERKHILL.

This influential Cardross man was born in the West Bridgend portion of the parish in 1834. He received his initiatory education at the parish school, and finished the same at the University of Glasgow, where he took honours in the Conveyancing Class under Professor Skene.

Mr Buchanan served his law apprenticeship with the late Mr John Paterson, writer, Dumbarton, familiarly known as "the honest lawyer." Walter Buchanan, after the expiry of his apprenticeship, entered the office of Messrs C. R. Baird & Muirhead, one of the leading law firms in Glasgow, for which Mr Paterson was local correspondent. Mr Buchanan after a time transferred his services to Mr John Steuart, writer and banker, Pollockshaws and Glasgow, to whom he acted as managing clerk.

His next move was to the office of Messrs Murdoch & Rodgers, writers, Glasgow, where he held the important post of managing conveyancing clerk. In 1866 Walter Buchanan was assumed as partner by William Paterson, writer, Dumbarton (only son of the deceased John Paterson), the firm being then changed to Paterson & Buchanan, as it still remains, although Mr Paterson has deceased.

When William Paterson died in 1875, Walter Buchanan was appointed joint agent of the local branch of the Clydesdale Bank, in room of his partner, having as colleague Mr C. M. Stevenson, who had been accountant in the office.

Mr Buchanan joined the Volunteer force at its origin, and served seven years in the ranks of the Cardross company of rifles, ultimately succeeding Major M'Intyre in the command of the Company. He retired in 1888 with the rank of Major, after completing fifteen years' commissioned service.

In addition to military duty, Mr Buchanan has also rendered civil service to the community, he having been for a short term a Town Councillor of Dumbarton. Further, he is one of the original life trustees of Dalreoch *Quoad Sacra* Church, of which he is an elder, session clerk, and treasurer. He was twice returned by the Presbytery of Dumbarton as one of their lay representatives to the General Assembly.

The subject of this memoir has during his life-time taken a warm interest in all matters appertaining to the welfare of Cardross.

Mr Buchanan, in 1866, married Jessie, only daughter of Mr Robert Stevenson, ex-Councillor of Helensburgh, an enterprising tradesman of that burgh, who, on account of the many houses he erected within its borders, might be termed one of the men who built the town. Of this union there is surviving issue five sons and two daughters, the oldest son being associated with his father in the law business.

Walter Buchanan is a member of the Buchanan Society of Glasgow, and of the Dumbarton Salmon Club.

## COUNTY-COUNCILLOR DONALD MACINTYRE, TIGH-CRUACHAN,

who is a leading residerter in Cardross, was born over half-a-century ago in Argyllshire. In early manhood he went to Glasgow, where for a good many years he has been largely and successfully engaged in the importation of butcher meat from America.

Some fourteen years ago Mr MacIntyre took up his residence in Cardross, where a few years later he built his present handsome place of abode, yclept Tigh-Cruachan. While eminently attentive to business, the subject of this memoir has yet found time to devote to public (more especially parochial) matters, and two years ago he was honoured by being made chairman of the Parochial Board of Cardross. He is vice-chairman of Dumbarton Combination Poor-house Committee. He also sits at the County Council Board as the representative of Cardross. To the duties pertaining to these important positions Mr MacIntyre gives commendable heed, and it is said of him that he has not missed attending a single meeting, were it either a general or a committee one. The chairman of the Parochial Board is a man with a warm heart, and a hand that moves responsive to it. It consists with my own knowledge that during last winter and the former one he visited almost all the poor folks of Renton, and rejoiced their hearts greatly by his kind words and great liberality.

County Councillor MacIntyre is a well read man, especially in History and Poetry; and in private life he is most genial and hospitable. In politics he is a moderate Liberal. He is a family man, and has several sons and daughters. Take him for all in all, he is every inch a man. Few men carry the cup of prosperity as modestly as he does. "He does good by stealth, and blushes to find it fame." May his shadow never grow less, for under it the sons and daughters of affliction find ample shelter from the evils which threaten to devour.

## CAPTAIN WILLIAM BEATTIE THOMSON, ARDENVOHR.

Mr Thomson is a native of the Vale of Leven, and has for several years resided at Cardross, having married the elder daughter of Mr M'Intyre of Tigh-Cruachan. W. B. Thomson finished his education at the University of Glasgow, where he took honours in the Law Classes. After serving as law clerk in various offices, including that of Messrs Mitchells, Cowan & Johnstone, Glasgow, he, in 1876, began business as a lawyer in Dumbarton, the firm of which he is now a member being that of MacFarlan & Thomson, solicitors, who are also agents for the British Linen Coy. Bank.

Mr Thomson has been a commissioned officer in the 1st Dumbartonshire Rifle Volunteers for ten or twelve years, and has now the command of the "B" or Cardross Company. Since Captain Thomson took up his residence in Cardross, he has taken a great interest in its welfare. He is an elder in the church of the parish, and is at present the representative of its session at meetings of Presbytery. For several years he has also had the honour of being a lay representative of Dumbarton Presbytery in the General Assembly. He was also for several years president of the Young Men's Guild of the parish of Cardross.

W. B. Thomson is a member of the Parochial Board of Cardross, and convener of several of its committees, and is presently the representative to the heritors of Cardross from Moore's Mortification Trust, which is managed by the Parochial Board. In politics, he is a Conservative, and is the registration and political agent for the Constitutional Association in the district.

Mr Thomson has not confined himself to legal studies and writings. He has written at considerable length, and written well, on various other themes, including descriptions of the United States and Canada, in which he travelled. His articles on these subjects were published in the *Dumbarton* and *Lennox*

*Heralds*, and also delivered before the members of various Mechanics' and other Institutions, and were much admired. My friend is a keen Free Mason, and held the important post of R.W.M. of No. 18, Kilwinning lodge, which is the oldest in the Province of Dumbartonshire. Mr Thomson is also a member of several social clubs, including the Dumbarton Salmon and Burns Clubs, of both of which he has been chairman.

ROBERT CRAIG, SHERIFF CLERK OF DUMBARTONSHIRE.

This man whom I rank as one of the notable men of Cardross, became a resident in the parish in this wise :--When the estate of Ardoch was offered for sale a few years ago, Mr Craig purchased a portion of it extending to several acres, on which is situated the old house of Clydebank, occupied by his mother. On the higher part of the grounds thus acquired, he erected a villa called Hazelwood, in the Scotch baronial style of architecture, which is greatly admired for its captivating appearance and beautiful, commanding situation.

The new laird has cleared away the old farm steading that stood on and disfigured a piece of his lands, but allowed some of the fruit trees, which formed the at one time famous orchard of Clydebank, to remain ; and these, though venerable with age, bear most excellent fruit.

Mr Craig served his apprenticeship to the law in the office of the late Phineas Daniel, W.S., Sheriff-Clerk of the county, and afterwards for some years carried on business on his own account as a writer in Dumbarton.

In 1871 he was appointed to the important post of Sheriff-Clerk of Dumbartonshire ; and in September, 1885, he married Miss Marion Boyd Cunningham Steele (daughter of the late Sheriff Steele, Dumbarton), having issue one son.

The Sheriff-Clerk is a Justice of Peace for the county, and Clerk to the Lieutenancy of the same. He has also, for the last

quarter of a century, had charge of matters appertaining to the feus of the Luss estates.

He is of a retiring nature, but those who are familiar with him know right well the fund of humour and geniality that is bound up in his nature, and appreciate him highly as the possessor of these and many other lovable properties.

WILLIAM ALLISON MACLACHLAN, M.D.

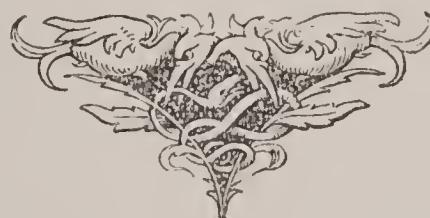
The doctor was born in the parish of Cardross in 1849, was bred in it, is now its medical officer, and holds the same position towards the Moore Mortification Trust of the district. He and his forbears have dwelt in the Vale of Leven portion of the parish for over a century. Mr MacLachlan graduated at the University of Glasgow in the spring of 1874, having passed through his classes with considerable distinction. Immediately after he became a qualified medical practitioner, he practised in the village of Tarbolton, Ayrshire, for a few months, and then, towards the end of the same year, he settled in the portion of Dumbarton which lies in Cardross parish—namely, the West Bridgend—where he still resides. Besides the appointments mentioned above, the doctor is a medical officer of the Dumbarton Cottage Hospital, Examiner of Army Recruits, and acting-surgeon of the local Volunteer Artillery Corps. Despite these various important appointments, and the discharge of the duties which appertain to a large private practice scattered over a wide area, my energetic friend manages to find time to devote to the public interest, and to the interest of his brother practitioners, as a member of the Town Council of Dumbarton, and as President of the Dumbartonshire Medical Association.

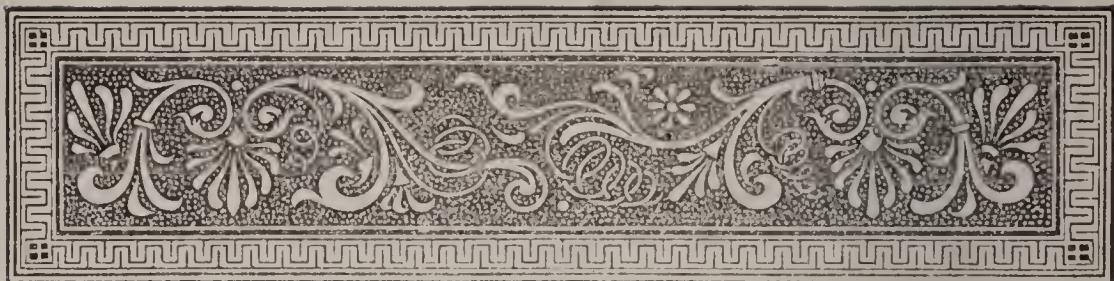
As a relief to his severer studies, the doctor has for a considerable time struck the lyre, and the lyrics which flowed forth responsive to his touch have been much appreciated for their musical cadence and fine fancy. Examples of these I recently gave to the public in my work entitled “Poets and Poetry of the Lennox,” which do credit to both his head and heart. The doctor has

from time to time contributed to the medical literature of the age. Valuable articles from his versatile pen have been published in the "Lancet," "British Medical Journal," and "Glasgow and West of Scotland Medical Journal." He also read a most suggestive paper on "Addison's Disease" before the Medical Section of the British Medical Association at its meeting in Glasgow in 1889.

Dr MacLachlan, in 1880, married Janet Wallace Paul, youngest daughter of ex-Provost Paul, Dumbarton, and has issue a son and a daughter.

The doctor is a member of the following learned bodies:—British Medical Association, Glasgow and West of Scotland Medical Association, Glasgow Medico Chirurgical Society, and the Glasgow University Court.





## Chapter XXX.

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### ALEXANDRIA.

THE village of Alexandria, named after the late laird of Bonhill, was, say about half a-century ago, an ill-planned, straggling, rather mean-looking place, where every bit lairdie planted down his bit biggin pretty much as his fancy dictated—with the worst results.

A great deal has happened since then. There are not many places in this quarter which have made such great strides within the last few years as Alexandria has done, not only in population, but in most things which make life worth living. Its water supply, which was at one time scanty and of a very questionable quality, is now unimpeachable, being obtained in bounteous measure from “The Queen of Scottish Lakes.” Its streets, roads, and drainage are improved. Many new streets have been formed, and flanked by houses of a very attractive nature, while the lower slope of the hill behind the village is beautified exceedingly

by villas and grounds of quite a superior class. The older streets have become quite transformed by rows of superior houses being erected therein, many of which have in their basements shops of such a spacious, high-class description as would do credit to a city. It hath in its centre a handsome fountain, dedicated to Alexander Smollett, the late laird of Bonhill.

The place presents quite a town aspect. It is equipped with churches of almost every denomination to meet the varied wants of the people, so that each member of the community may get his weekly quantum of Gospel through the channel which his soul loveth best. Nor doth it lack a Public Hall of fair form and good accommodation. Its Public School, which is Gothic in style, is a very capacious and attractive one. To crown all these good things, two Institutes were recently gifted to the community by its princely benefactor, William Ewing Gilmour, Esq., of Croftengaea. With all these advantages, and its beauteous surroundings, the "Grocery" takes rank with the best-equipped places of its size in the land.

One of the most important of recent works executed in the place was the formation of the

#### BONHILL PARISH CEMETERY.

On account of the crowded state of the graveyards of Bonhill parish, there was formed, in 1880, a garden cemetery for the parish on the lower slope of the pleasant range of hills which hem in the village of Alexandria on the west. This city of the dead is tastefully laid off, and has, during the decade which has elapsed since its origin, become a somewhat populous place. Many of the stones of memorial erected within its borders by pious hands are fine specimens of the sculptor's art, and all over the place neatness and good taste are abundantly apparent, forming a pleasing contrast to the old-time burying places, where decency too frequently was outraged, and order was at a discount.

The cemetery ground was purchased from P. B. Smollett, Esq., of Bonhill. The operations in regard to laying it out were begun in August, 1880 ; and the total cost, including superintendent's house at entrance lodge, was over £3,000, which sum was obtained on loan from the Savings' Bank, Bradford.

Messrs Boyle & Tonnor, contractors, Johnstone, laid out the grounds ; Mr Wm. Barlas, Alexandria, was the builder of the Lodge ; and the Saracen Foundry, Glasgow, provided the entrance gate and railings. The whole work was done in accordance with plan, &c., prepared by Mr James Wilson, C.E., Greenock.

The first interment took place on 10th August, 1881. The total interments to this date (23rd April, 1890) are 701 ; the receipts from the sale of ground, &c., to same date, £1,282 11s 6d. The cemetery is managed by a committee, of which E. J. Jones, Esq., of Dalmonach, is chairman. Mr Adam Bone is the present superintendent. The ground is admirably adapted for the purposes for which it was acquired.

While, as I have shown, additional accommodation for the proper burial of the dead had to be bought for the parish of Bonhill in 1880, yet so long ago as 1840 a God's Acre had to be secured, and a Chapel of Ease had to be erected in Alexandria, to relieve the pressure for space to which the kirk and kirkyard of Bonhill had been for long subjected, so that the dead might be decently interred, and worshippers might perform their public devotions in comfort.

#### ALEXANDRIA CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD

are situated in the Main Street of the village. The place of worship is of pleasing design, and substantially built of white sandstone. It has a well-proportioned steeple, in which there is an illuminated dial. The building is somewhat Gothic in style, and is seated for 900 persons. In 1866 it was created a Parish Church *quoad sacra*. The Rev. Mr Kidd, who still survives, was

appointed to the charge in 1844. The Rev. James Cromarty Sinith, M.A., B.D., was ordained as colleague and successor to the aged pastor in 1888. The place of worship about six years ago underwent considerable alterations. An organ was introduced, the old pews were re-modelled in accordance with modern notions, and the interior of the sacred edifice was decorated in a high-class, artistic style, at a cost of several hundreds of pounds. Two stained glass windows, which were erected by the late Alexander Smollett of Bonhill, in memory of his mother, are a great adornment to the house of prayer.

The kirkyard is a goodly sized, well kept one, partaking in some measure of the characteristics of a modern cemetery. In it there are several stones of memorial of quite superior excellence, pointing out the spots where the more illustrious of the village dead repose. The beautiful Gothic mausoleum wherein lie the remains of the more recently departed Smolletts of Bonhill, is situated at the east end of the place of graves, and a description of it, and a notice of those who sleep their long sleep within its walls, I proceed forthwith to give.

The Smolletts, down to 1809, were buried in the churchyard of Dumbarton. At that date, Augusta, youngest daughter of Admiral Smollett, was interred within its precincts, the present laird of Bonhill, P. B. Smollett, having been present at the obsequies. In 1810, one of their places of burial was embraced in the new and greatly enlarged church of the parish, as was evidenced a few years ago by the finding of a tombstone during alterations, in the south side of the church, which had been laid over the grave of James Smollett, of date 1698. The said James at death was eight or ten years of age, and was grandson to Sir James Smollett of Bonhill, and had he lived would have inherited the estate. Another of their places of sepulture lay on the north side of the present church, near its west end, and it was entirely swept away when the street at Church Place was widened in

1880. Since 1842, Alexandria burying ground has been used by the Smolletts as their place of burial instead of the Dumbarton graveyard.

The late Alexander Smollett of Bonhill caused to be erected at his cost, behind the pulpit of Alexandria Parish Church, two charming stained glass *in memoriam* windows, the design being composed of leaves and flowers in exquisite combination. At the bottom of the one window there is the following legend : “I am the Light of the world. O ! worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” “In Memory of Elizabeth Boyle, born 1767 ; died 1858. Relict of Admiral Smollett of Bonhill.” At the bottom of the other window there is inscribed : “The memory of the just is blessed. The Lord is my Light and my Salvation.”

In the centre of the eastern extremity of the Alexandria Churchyard there stands the

#### SMOLLETT MAUSOLEUM,

which contains all that is mortal of a few of the more recent members of the family. The building is a fine specimen of floriated Gothic. The centre of the edifice rises with a cross-surmounted pediment to a height of about 25 feet. Under the finial there is engraven the family shield, with its arms : “Az. a bend or, between a lion rampant, ppr., holding in his paw a banner, arg., and a bugle horn, also ppr. Crest—An oak tree, ppr. Motto—Viresco.”

The shield is enclosed within a partly open circle, the innermost member of which is of cable pattern. The building has two wings extending right and left from the central pediment, the length of the whole edifice being about 20 feet, and its depth about 10 feet. On each side, the door is elaborately enriched with dogs' tooth and other ornamentation. There is in the front of the building an unglazed window of appropriate design, as there also is in each of the two end pediments which face north and south. Altogether this is a fit resting place for the historic family of Smollett. On

the east wall of the mausoleum there are placed three white marble tablets, each containing one of the following inscriptions : “ John Rouet Smollett, Rear-Admiral of the Red, born 9th May, 1767 ; died 16th May, 1842, in the 75th year of his age, “ Elizabeth, daughter of the Hon. Patrick Boyle, wife of Admiral J. R. Smollett, born 23rd October, 1767 ; died 6th August, 1858, in her 91st year.” “ Alexander Smollett of Bonhill, born 29th Nov., 1801 ; died on 25th February, 1881, aged 79 years.” Further information regarding the Smollett family will be found in the next chapter.

I now go on to give sketches of the more illustrious dead who are interred in the graveyard.

#### THE REV. WILLIAM KIDD.

This divine—who is mentioned in a foregoing part of this book as still surviving, but who has deceased during the progress of this work through the press—was born at Armiston, Mid-Lothian, in December, 1806. In his early boyhood he attended school at East Linton. Afterwards, when the family removed to Edinburgh, he attended the High School of that city when Dr Carson was rector—for whose memory he retained the highest esteem. During his college course he attended the University of Edinburgh when Wilson (Christopher North) was Professor of Moral Philosophy, and Chalmers Professor of Theology.

Mr Kidd was licensed by the Presbytery of Dalkeith in 1834, and soon thereafter he got an appointment as assistant in the united parishes of Cross and Burness in Orkney, where he laboured for a year, after which he was assistant in the parishes of Flisk, in Fifeshire : Maybole, in Ayrshire ; and Hownam, in Roxburghshire.

In November, 1843 (the Disruption year), he received a call from the congregation of Alexandria, which he accepted, and he was ordained to the charge in January, 1844. Here he laboured

faithfully until June, 1888, when, to relieve him of his duties, the Rev. J. Cromarty Smith was appointed as his assistant and successor. Mr Kidd, after a brief illness, died on September 20th, 1891, aged 85 years.

The Rev. Mr Kidd was “everybody’s body.” He was beloved alike by “gentle and simple.” It is not putting it too strong to state that for close on half a century he was one of the widest known and one of the most notable of the leading men of the Vale of Leven.

#### DONALD MACLEAN, TACKSMAN OF BONHILL BRIDGE.

At the western extremity of the north wall of the burying ground of the Alexandria Church there stands a fine specimen of the stone sculptor’s art, by Barlas of Alexandria. It is fully six feet high, has richly carved Gothic pediments and sidewings. At the top of the stone the letter M is carved within a shield, underneath which there is the following inscription:—“Erected by Thomas M’Lean, in affectionate remembrance of his father, Donald M’Lean, who died at Bridge House, Alexandria, 11th August, 1882, aged 71 years.

Mr M’Lean, who for a long series of years was one of the best known and best liked men in the Vale of Leven, deserves more at my hands than the mere giving of the inscription on his tombstone.

Donald M’Lean, who came of a good old Highland stock, was born in Kintyre, near Campbeltown, in 1811, where his father was a farmer. He was educated at the parish school, and at eighteen years of age left the place of his birth to make his way in the world. From the year 1829, till his decease in 1882, he was closely associated with the Vale of Leven, as a merchant and as lessee of Bonhill Bridge. He was one of the original promoters of the Alexandria Gravitation Water Supply. For a number of years he was managing director of the Lochlomond Steamboat Coy.,

and latterly acted as one of the ordinary directors of the same. He was also a director of the Vale of Leven Public Hall Company, president of the Vale of Leven Curling Club, and a trustee of the Vale of Leven Savings Bank, along with his life-long friend the late Mr Lewis Guthrie, banker. In church matters he was always a strong upholder of Alexandria Free Church, and a liberal contributor to its funds.

His only son, Thomas M'Lean, was born in 1847 ; educated in Dalmonach school, and in Alexandria Parochial School, under the present esteemed master, Mr Mushet ; and completed his education at Circus Place School, Edinburgh. In 1866 he was entered as an apprentice in the office of the late Mr Hugh Kirkwood of Killermont, banker and estate factor, where he served till 1874, when he was appointed factor of the Bonhill Estate (Mr Smollett's), and shortly afterwards, of Drumhead Estate (Dr Buchanan Dunlop's), and also of Blairlusk property, belonging to the late Colonel Findlay's trustees. He is local agent for the British Linen Company Bank, J.P. for the county, and altogether a man of mark.

#### LEWIS GUTHRIE, BANK AGENT.

This erstwhile eminently useful man was born in Alexandria in 1802, and there he was brought up. He began his business career as a grocer in his native village. After being engaged in that occupation for some time, he received the appointment of local agent to the Clydesdale Bank, in succession to the late Graham Kinloch.

Prior to leaving the district for Rothesay, to which place Mr Guthrie retired in 1881 to spend his declining years, he was presented with an illuminated address, and a cheque for £166 10s, subscribed as a token of esteem by his many friends. The address was signed on behalf of the public by John Campbell, chairman ; Wm. M'Kinlay, treasurer ; and Wm. Lochhead, secretary.

Lewis Guthrie did not long survive his change of residence. He died in the capital of Bute on 25th April, 1882, aged 80 years, and was buried in Bonhill churchyard four days thereafter.

Lewis Guthrie was for many years treasurer of the Lochlomond Steamboat Company, and worthily held other appointments. He took a very active part in evangelistic work in the Vale of Leven. He was an office-bearer in Alexandria Free Church, was a staunch Free Church man, and contributed liberally to all its schemes. His was a long, active, eminently useful life, which led up to his being one of the best known and best beloved men in the Vale of Leven.

Another old and worthy residenter falls to be noticed here.

WILLIAM M'KINLAY,

a gentleman well and favourably known in this district, died on 11th December, 1890, at the advanced age of 85. Deceased was for many years collector and treasurer for the Leven Gas Light Company. When Alexandria was in its infancy, and when badly off for water, Mr M'Kinlay and a few others promoted a private water company to supply part of the village. As a member of the Parochial Board and Local Authority, deceased up till a few years ago rendered valuable assistance, being regular in his attendance at meetings, and most assiduous in looking after the interests of the district. He was connected with the Renton Reformed Presbyterian Church (now Levenside Free), and officiated as an elder for a long period. When the City of Glasgow Bank came down Mr M'Kinlay was one of the shareholders, and suffered serious loss thereby. In business matters he was very shrewd. In local affairs he was well informed, while on general matters he was very intelligent, and had the courage and the ability to express his views. Deceased had outlived several wives.

## THREE DUMBARTONIANS.

In the course of my note-taking among the tombs, I accidentally came upon the tombstones of three erstwhile residents in Dumbarton, whose relics lie side by side in the dust of death at the west end of the south wall of the graveyard.

These, when in the flesh, were light—Archibald Fergusson, painter, town councillor, and elder of the Parish Kirk ; a decent worthy, prosperous man. Another was William M'Farlane, grocer and proprietor in the royal burgh, an honest, plain, blunt man of the old school, and also an elder of the Kirk. And the third of the trio was Robert Lang, a Dumbarton man who had little if any of the elder element in his constitution. For a long period he held an important position in the office of Merry & Cunningham, coalmasters, Glasgow. Latterly he bought the steam tug “Sampson,” and ran her for a few years on his own account. He was a smart man, but possessed of a fiery, ungovernable temper.

The reasons annexed to these worthies being interred outwith the bounds of the county town is the shutting up, in 1856, of its Auld Kirkyard, after an expensive litigation, to which they were parties. Rather than lie within the borders of its new and beautiful cemetery, they preferred that their mortal remains should decay and be resolved into dust among “unco folk.”

Another of these stern old burgesses who felt wroth at being denied the privilege of sleeping with his fathers was Lieut. John Maxwell, an ex-bailie of the burgh ; and he is buried at Row. The ruling spirit, in each of the above cases, was strong in death.

## THREE GENERATIONS OF DRs. CULLEN, OF “THE VALE.”

John Cullen, surgeon, first of the family to settle in this district, was born at Pollokshaws in the year 1800, and died in 1858. He married Clementina Elphinstone Fleming, daughter of William Fleming of Woodilee, Kirkintilloch, and had issue two daughters

and three sons. The sons all entered the ranks of the medical profession. Robert Fleming was a surgeon in the Royal Navy; William Fleming a surgeon in the army (he died of cholera in Malta about seventeen years ago; and Dr John Fleming, of "the Vale," who died in 1889, deeply mourned. He was born at The Cottage, Renton, in 1828. He graduated in 1848 as licentiate of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, and in 1863 as Doctor of Medicine. He began practice in Renton in 1848, and soon held all the parochial and public works' appointments. The doctor married Jane Alexander Graham, of the Grahams of Allanshaw, and by her had nine of a family, of whom four are dead. The surviving five are—Christina Paul, Jane Alexander Graham, Katherine Graham, Robert William, and John Robert Fleming. The latter was born in Alexandria in December, 1863; received his education, first at Alexandria School, then in the Royal High School, Edinburgh. He graduated in Glasgow University as Bachelor of Medicine in 1886, was House Surgeon in the Western Infirmary and in the Hospital for Skin Diseases of that city for a year. Shortly thereafter, on the demise of his father, he settled down to his profession in Alexandria and district. In 1890 he married Mamie, second daughter of Major John M'Intyre, Geilston, Cardross.

The family burying ground is in the Churchyard of Alexandria, and there repose the mortal remains of two generations of medical men of one family, who did their duty nobly. For others, with the last enemy, Death, they had many a tussle; but at last they themselves were overcome by him, made his captives, and consigned to the place appointed for all living.

In this connection I give a very brief biographical sketch of one of the elder Dr Cullen's grandsons, also a medical practitioner in the Vale.

JOHN FLEMING CULLEN-BROWN, M.D., C.M., &c.,  
Born in Glasgow. Educated in the High School of that city, and

in classics in its University ; thereafter joined its medical classes. Became assistant to Dr Samuel Johnston Moore in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Afterwards went to England, and from thence to Chalmers' Hospital, Banff. After that admirable training, Dr. Brown entered on private practice in the Vale of Leven, where he has now been settled for over twenty years.

In what follows of this chapter I give sketches of the living notables of the place, giving the clergy, on account of their sacred office, precedence.

REV. J. CROMARTY SMITH, M.A., B.D., MINISTER OF ALEXANDRIA.

This esteemed young divine is a son of the manse. He was born at the manse of Firth and Stenness, Orkney, in 1863, of which united parish his father was the then incumbent. In 1868 the Rev. Mr Smith, senr., was translated to the church and parish of Unst, in Shetland, and there the subject of this notice received his elementary education. On leaving school he, with a view to entering a University, was put under tutors, and on arriving at the age of fifteen years he was enrolled as a student at the University of Edinburgh. When Mr Cromarty Smith had passed successfully through the Arts course, he became tutor to the family of Lord Polwarth, at his seat in Roxburghshire. In that pleasant place and in that godly household Mr Smith spent a few peaceful years, during which, however, he had some little perturbation of spirit as to whether he should prepare for the ministry of the English Church or the Scottish. He ultimately decided to cast in his lot with the latter, and accordingly entered the Divinity Hall of the University, as a bursar, in 1883. Having received the degrees of M.A. and B.D., he shortly thereafter was appointed assistant in Cambusnethan Parish. In that position he remained for a year and a half, at the expiry of which time—in December, 1887—he received a call to Alexandria as assistant to the Rev. Mr Kidd, who had long and faithfully laboured in the field.

In April, 1888, that venerable pastor retired. The assistant was elected in his stead minister of the church and parish *quoad sacra*, and was ordained to the charge in the following month. His appointment has been an eminently successful one. In many ways he has endeared himself to the people of the parish, and the church under his ministrations is in a very flourishing state.

REV. JAMES ALLISON, U.P. CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.

Mr Allison was born in 1831, on the farm of Hawbank, East Kilbride, Lanarkshire, of which his father was tenant. When he was only a lad his father died, and he had to renounce the scholastic studies, of which he was so fond, to hold the plough and do general farming work to help his mother in the battle of life ; and these duties he performed diligently for seven years. When he had reached the 24th year of his age his insatiable thirst for knowledge and educational acquirements led him back as a student to East Kilbride Parish School, to prepare himself for entering a University—which he was, by great application, enabled to do at the end of eighteen months, when he entered the University of Glasgow. Having gone through the usual curriculum, he was ordained in 1866 to the pastorate of Oxendon U.P. Church, London. After four years' arduous labour there, his health broke down to such a degree as impelled him to resign the charge.

After Mr Allison had given himself rest for a few years he got once more into good form, and undertook the charge of Boston Church, Cupar Fife, where he remained for seven years, until he accepted the incumbency of the U.P. Church, Alexandria, in which he has laboured most devotedly for the last fourteen years. The Rev. Mr Allison has one son, who is undergoing a course of training with a view to the ministry of the U.P. Church.

REV. WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, B.D., OF THE FREE CHURCH.

A native of Leith ; educated at Moray House (Free Church Normal School), Edinburgh. Served as pupil teacher in South

Leith Free Church School. Entered University of Edinburgh in 1865, and after a three years' curriculum in Arts, graduated M.A. Entered Free Church New College, Edinburgh, in 1868, and after a four years' course in Divinity, graduated in 1872 B.D. of Edinburgh University. Licensed same year by Free Church Presbytery of Edinburgh. Ordained Free Church Minister of Alexandria on 18th May, 1874. He is a member of the Edinburgh University Council.

#### FATHER DE BACKER.

Father de Backer is a Belgian, born in Bruges in 1854, in the Episcopal College of which place he studied for the ministry until he had reached his nineteenth year, and then he entered Archbishop Eyre's Seminary at Partick-Hill, Glasgow, where he remained under tuition for a few years. Ordained priest in 1877, he received the appointment of assistant in St. Michael's, Parkhead, where he laboured for two years, and was then transferred to Maryhill. After working in this new field for other two years, he was removed to St. Mary's, Glasgow. He was not allowed to remain long there, for shortly after he had entered on his pastorate he received orders to take charge of a new mission station in Hamilton. The worthy Father, after having done good, honest work in that town for five years, was removed three years ago to the Vale of Leven, where he has the spiritual oversight of between two and three thousand souls—truly an awful responsibility, but one which the zealous ecclesiastic does his very best to discharge faithfully, as in the sight of God.

The chapel in Alexandria in which Father De Backer's flock worship is a Gothic building, dedicated to "Our Lady and St. Mark." It is capable of holding about 530 worshippers. In connection with it there are two schools, attended by 400 pupils. There are also various other agencies at work for the elevation of the adherents of the old, old Church.

The subject of this brief notice is a useful member of the Cardross and Bonhill School Boards.

The other ministers of the Gospel at Alexandria are the Revs. Martin Luther Camburn, Wesleyan ; John Campbell, Baptist, and W. H. Hildersley, Episcopalian. The last named arrogates to himself the title of “The Priest in charge of the Vale.”

I will now go on to speak of notable living laymen of Alexandria and its vicinage ; and in the forefront of these I would mention the leading incidents in the life of

#### WILLIAM EWING GILMOUR OF CROFTENGEA.

This large-hearted, open-handed man was born at Torquay, Devonshire, in 1854. He was educated at the Academy and University of Edinburgh. Receiving an ample fortune from his father, Allan Gilmour, Esq., of Eaglesham, he did not require to go into business of any kind ; but in 1874, at the urgent request of his uncle, John Orr Ewing, of Alexandria and Levenfield Works, Mr William Ewing Gilmour was induced to take up his abode in the Vale of Leven, with a view to a partnership in the firm of John Orr Ewing & Co.—which view became an accomplished fact on 1st January, 1878.

While Mr Ewing Gilmour has the reputation of being a most attentive business man, yet it is patent to all that his capacity for work is not exhausted thereby. In 1876, when only twenty-one years of age, he was elected a member of the Bonhill School Board, and was at its first meeting chosen chairman thereof—which position he still retains, with credit to himself and with advantage to the community. To stimulate a love for learning, he has founded a bursary of £25, tenable for two years, to be competed for by pupils attending the Board Schools.

For the past sixteen years the subject of this brief sketch has been the heart, soul, and mainspring of the Lochlomond Regatta



Yours sincerely  
J. G. Gilmore



Yours faithfully  
H. C. Gilmore



Club. He is also chairman of the Trustees of Alexandria *Quoad Sacra* Parish Church, member of the Bonhill Parochial Board, Commissioner of Supply and Justice of Peace for the County of Dumbarton. He takes a keen interest in agricultural pursuits, and has been chairman of the Glasgow Agricultural Society for a number of years.

William Ewing Gilmour a few years ago erected and endowed at Alexandria the Ewing Gilmour Institute for Men, at a cost of £12,000. The design of the building is chaste, the workmanship exceptionally good, the supply of literature abundant, and the means afforded within its borders for recreation of such a character that any town in the kingdom might feel proud of such an institute, and also of its donor. More recently this princely benefactor of the district has erected and endowed, at a cost of £20,000, an Institute for Women, of a charmingly picturesque external appearance, and fitted up internally in the best taste, regardless of expense. But as views of these Institutes, and descriptions of them, are given in connection with this notice, I will not here say more on these subjects.

In 1882, William Ewing Gilmour married Jessie Gertrude, third daughter of James Campbell of Tullichewan, and has issue. This union of hearts and minds has been fraught with blessings, not only to the contracting parties, but also to the district at large. In the carrying out of work for the public good, as in many other matters, two are better than one, and Mr and Mrs Ewing Gilmour are fine examples of the blessed fruits borne by a couple zealously minded to good works.

There is a natural and reasonable desire on the part of the public to know something about the forbears of those who fill a large space in the public eye, and I proceed to gratify the same regarding the progenitors and connections of him who is the principal theme of this notice.

W. E. Gilmour is a descendant of the Gilmours of Pollok,

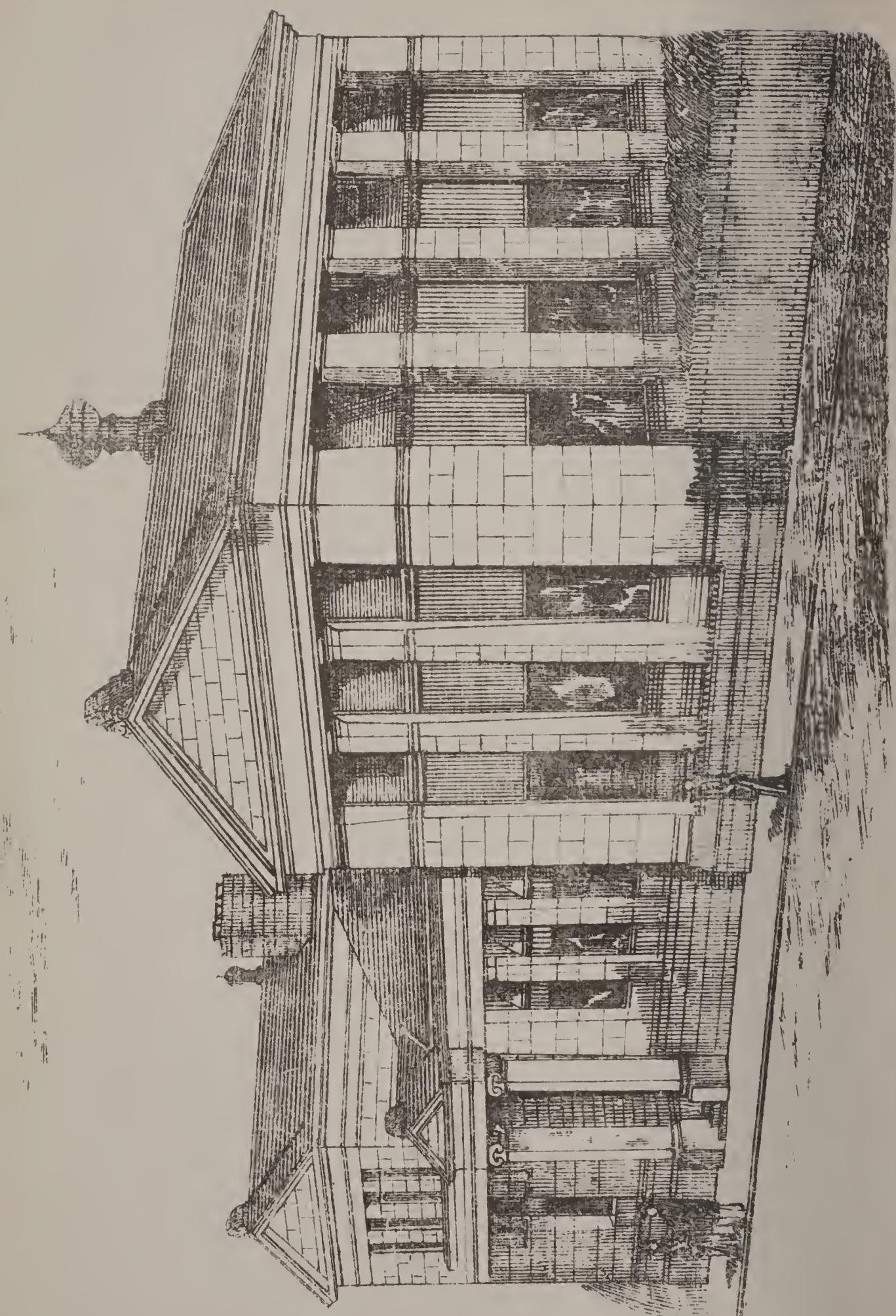
Gilmour & Co., eminent lumber merchants, shipbuilders and ship-owners. In 1804, Allan Gilmour, in conjunction with his relative Allan Pollok, established the firm of Pollok, Gilmour & Co., which was destined to high commercial distinction. At first they traded with Norway and Sweden, their Glasgow office being at 19 Union Street. They also opened a branch at Grangemouth, under the charge of Arthur Pollok, who made this port his residence for many years. In 1808 they diverted their trade to America, and Allan Gilmour was then dispatched to New Brunswick, where he established branch houses at St. John, Miramichi, Bathurst, Chaleur Bay, and an important house and shipbuilding yard at Quebec. Up country, extensive forests were acquired, and saw-mills erected throughout them, on a scale hitherto undreamt of.

Shipowning, which had begun on the Clyde with the construction of a coaster of fifty tons burthen, soon became an important feature in their business, and attained, by degrees, to a tonnage greater than that of any contemporary firm in the United Kingdom.

The co-partnery as originally constituted underwent considerable changes during the seventy years of its existence. In 1812, Allan Gilmour's brother James, father of Allan Gilmour, laird of Eaglesham and a noted agriculturist, and grandfather of William Ewing Gilmour of Croftengea, joined the house as a partner, as also did Alexander Rankin; and they were attached to the Miramichi establishment, and proceeded thither on board the "Mary," a vessel of 180 tons burthen. They were landed at the mouth of the river, up which the craft could not proceed by reason of ice blocking the way. The two passengers forthwith walked to Chatham, and the good ship "Mary" wintered at Prince Edward Island.

Several of Allan Gilmour's nephews were afterwards received into the business, the best known of whom in Glasgow was Allan





EWING GILMOUR INSTITUTE FOR MEN.

Gilmour of Lundin and Montrave. He had been sent to Miramichi in 1821, at the age of sixteen, and becoming a partner in 1837, soon rose to be at the head of the house, and continued so till his retirement in 1870.

John Pollok retired from the co-partnery in 1853, and died in 1858. Arthur Pollok withdrew in 1853, and died in 1870. Allan Gilmour of Montrave left the concern in 1870, and deceased in 1885.

The company was coincident with the rise and early development of the great Canadian lumber trade, and saw the culmination and decline of the important wooden shipbuilding industry.

In 1872 the old-established house was re-constructed, and the firm altered to that of Allan Gilmour & Co. It is now carried on by four cousins named Gilmour, who worthily represent the original founders of the colossal concern. The vast estates held by the descendants of the various members of the firm of Pollok, Gilmour & Co. in the counties of Renfrew, Argyll, Fife, and in the west of Ireland, attest forcibly as to the amount of wealth and high position which the company had achieved under the enlightened and enterprising guidance of two generations of partners.

I now describe the Institutes referred to in Mr W. E. Gilmour's biography.

#### THE EWING GILMOUR INSTITUTE FOR MEN.

The foundation stone of this Institute was laid on 22nd June, 1882, amid great jubilation. The demonstration on that auspicious occasion was one of the largest ever witnessed in the Vale of Leven. The stone was laid by the Provincial Grand Master of the district, Brother J. M. Martin, then younger of Auchendennan, who made an admirable speech, in which he paid a just tribute to the virtues of his predecessor in the office, Brother Alexander Smollett of Bonhill, and spoke highly of Brother Ewing Gilmour's great generosity in erecting such an admirable Institute for the benefit of the village of Alexandria, in which he had chosen to cast his lot.

Before proceeding to lay the foundation stone, and after the Grand Chaplain had offered up prayer, Miss Jessie Gertrude Campbell (now Mrs W. E. Gilmour), in the most graceful manner, presented the Provincial Grand Master with a beautiful silver trowel (on which was engraven a suitable inscription), to enable him properly to do the work. After the stone was duly laid, Brother Gilmour made a short speech in the way of returning thanks to the various bodies, and also to the various individuals who in their thousands had turned out to grace the proceedings, and hoped that the chief object he had in view in erecting this Institute, viz., the elevation of the people amongst whom he dwelt, might by its agency be advanced.

On the opening of the Institute, on August 6th, 1884, Mr W. E. Gilmour was entertained to Dinner in the Public Hall of Alexandria, by the merchants of the Vale of Leven, in recognition of the value they attached to his munificent gift to the community. Patrick Boyle Smollett, Esq., of Bonhill, the then Convener of the County, occupied the chair, supported on the right by the guest. The toast of the evening, "The health of the donor, Mr Ewing Gilmour," was proposed by the chairman in most felicitous terms, and his remarks were enthusiastically received by the large audience. Mr Ewing Gilmour, in replying, thanked Mr Smollett for the graceful but all to flattering manner in which he had proposed his health. He valued the honour just conferred upon him for its own sake, but the value was to him doubled on account of its coming from his friends and neighbours. It was a matter to him of profound thankfulness, that in the carrying out of his various local projects he had secured the approbation of the entire community. In Mrs Gilmour's name as well as in his own he thanked the company for the compliment they had paid them, and he assured them that in all he had done for the people of the Vale of Leven he had had the cordial sympathy and active, hearty co-operation of Mrs Gilmour.

The complimentary meeting, which was graced by the presence of

most of the local county gentlemen, was a great success, and quite worthy of the occasion.

The Ewing Gilmour Institute, in connection with the opening of which the complimentary dinner referred to above was held, is in three separate parts, and is built in the Grecian and Egyptian styles of architecture. The doorway is in the centre, and leads direct to the conversation hall. In front of this, and to the right of the vestibule, is the smoking room. The section of the building to the right contains the principal hall. The portion to the left embraces coffee-room, committee-room, and lavatory, and an attendant's house above. While the building as a whole has an imposing appearance, it is the right section that impresses the beholder most favourably. In it there are three massive square columns supporting a pediment which crowns the structure, and gives dignity to it. Between the columns referred to there are three plate glass windows, fifteen feet long by six feet broad. The gable of this portion of the building also contains three similar columns, but they support no pediment. In the gable there are four windows, which, with the other three, give light, air, and beauty to the large hall. The centre part of the Institute is not so high as that just described, but it is not behind it in attractiveness. In this section the door is to the extreme left, while to the right there are three windows, ten feet by five, divided by solid columns, and those give light to the smoking room, where the jaded inhabitant may soothe his perturbed soul with the fragrant weed, the world forgetting, by the world forgot.

In the left section of the building there is the janitor's house, which is lighted by four windows at the top of the building, with one under to give light to the coffee-rooms.

Having viewed the building exteriorly, I now enter it and describe its interior. In the doorway there are two square pillars surmounted by Corinthian capitals in stone. When six steps are ascended the entrance door is reached. On each side of it there

is a pillar of stone, surmounted by the cap of the door, bearing this inscription :—“ This Institute was erected by William Ewing Gilmour of Croftengea, in memory of his uncle, John Orr Ewing of Levenfield, and presented to the inhabitants of the Vale of Leven.”

These columns and the cap are relieved with dentile enrichment, and heavy mouldings, &c. The entrance door is of oak, and contains a large plate glass pane with the legend, “ Ewing Gilmour Institute,” carved thereon. Within it is the vestibule of the building, which measures eleven feet, by eight feet wide, and is floored with Mosaic tiles, and roofed with heavy plaster cornices. The walls of the vestibule are panelled five feet high with dado lining in beautifully polished Riga wainscoting oak. Round the side of the doorway leading to the conversation hall there are most exquisite fluted pilasters and door cap. Proceeding through the doorway to the left, it is impressed upon one that in this quarter the inner-man may be refreshed, for is not this significant inscription, “ Coffee Room,” emblazoned on its door. The requisite stoves and other work of a similar description in it are by Messrs Waddell & Main, of Glasgow; and the woodwork is of solid mahogany, in keeping with the other work in the building, by Messrs John M’Auslan & Son, of Dumbarton. The grand lavatory forms the next place in the vestibule, and in it Messrs Baird & M’Intyre, plumbers, Alexandria, have shown forth their abilities to the full.

The conversation hall of the building is 27 feet long, 13 feet wide, and 14 feet high, having a flooring of Mosaic tiles. In general appearance it resembles the vestibule, with this exception, that the roof is arched, and panelled with heavy plaster work. This hall is lighted by means of three large-sized cupolas, and there are in the apartment two ventilators; whilst to give artificial light to the place at night there are ten brackets. To the left of the above room there is the one set apart for the committee, which

is finished in richly figured, polished pitch pine, and is lit by three large windows in the eastern gable. It contains a library case capable of accommodating fully six hundred volumes. There is also in it a large oaken table and the requisite number of chairs. In returning to the conversation hall, the smoking room, to the front of the building, is entered, and it is 20 feet long by 17 feet wide, and finished in British oak. Its tables are of light marble, its chairs oak, its lining wainscoting, and its roof panelled. Artificial light is administered to this apartment by means of eight beautiful gas brackets. The reading room is in close proximity to the smoke room, and is 31 feet by 21 feet, with a ceiling of 20 feet in height. The floor, like that of the smoke room, is of polished oak. In this place the daily and weekly papers, and the fortnightly, monthly, and quarterly periodicals, can be perused in the greatest comfort.

The ceremony of handing over the Institute for the benefit of the public was the means of drawing together the leading ladies and gentlemen of the district. Mr W. E. Gilmour, in declaring it open, stated that the Ewing Gilmour Institute is attached to no ecclesiastical denomination or political creed. Whatever a man's religion or politics may be, he is heartily invited to enter, and all that is required of him is to abide by the not too stringent rules of the Institute.

A great and a good man not infrequently, in this enlightened nineteenth century, secures in his lifetime tangible tokens of the esteem in which he is held by his fellows. This has happened more than once to William Ewing Gilmour of Croftengae.

On the evening of 20th May, 1891, the inhabitants of the Vale of Leven again met to do him honour. He had already gifted to the community an Institute for men, and he was on the following day to hand over to the people an Institute for women; and on these and other grounds a large and representative meeting convened in the Alexandria Public Hall to witness the presentation

to him of his own and his wife's portrait. The proceedings throughout were of the most enthusiastic description.

County Councillor James Shearer presided, and with him there were on the platform, Mr and Mrs Ewing Gilmour, and the members of the committee who had charge of the arrangements in connection with the presentation.

Mr J. B. Mackenzie, as convener of the committee, presented Mr Ewing Gilmour with the portraits, which are of three-quarter size, and admirable likenesses. They are encased in massive gilt frames, and each bears the following inscription :—"Presented to William Ewing Gilmour, Esq., of Croftengea, by the inhabitants of the Vale of Leven, as a mark of their high appreciation of the many benefits he has conferred upon the community. 20th May, 1891." The artist is Mr Joseph Henderson, Glasgow.

Mr Gilmour, on behalf of himself and Mrs Gilmour, returned hearty thanks for the compliment just paid them. It was unlooked-for, but none the less welcome on that account.

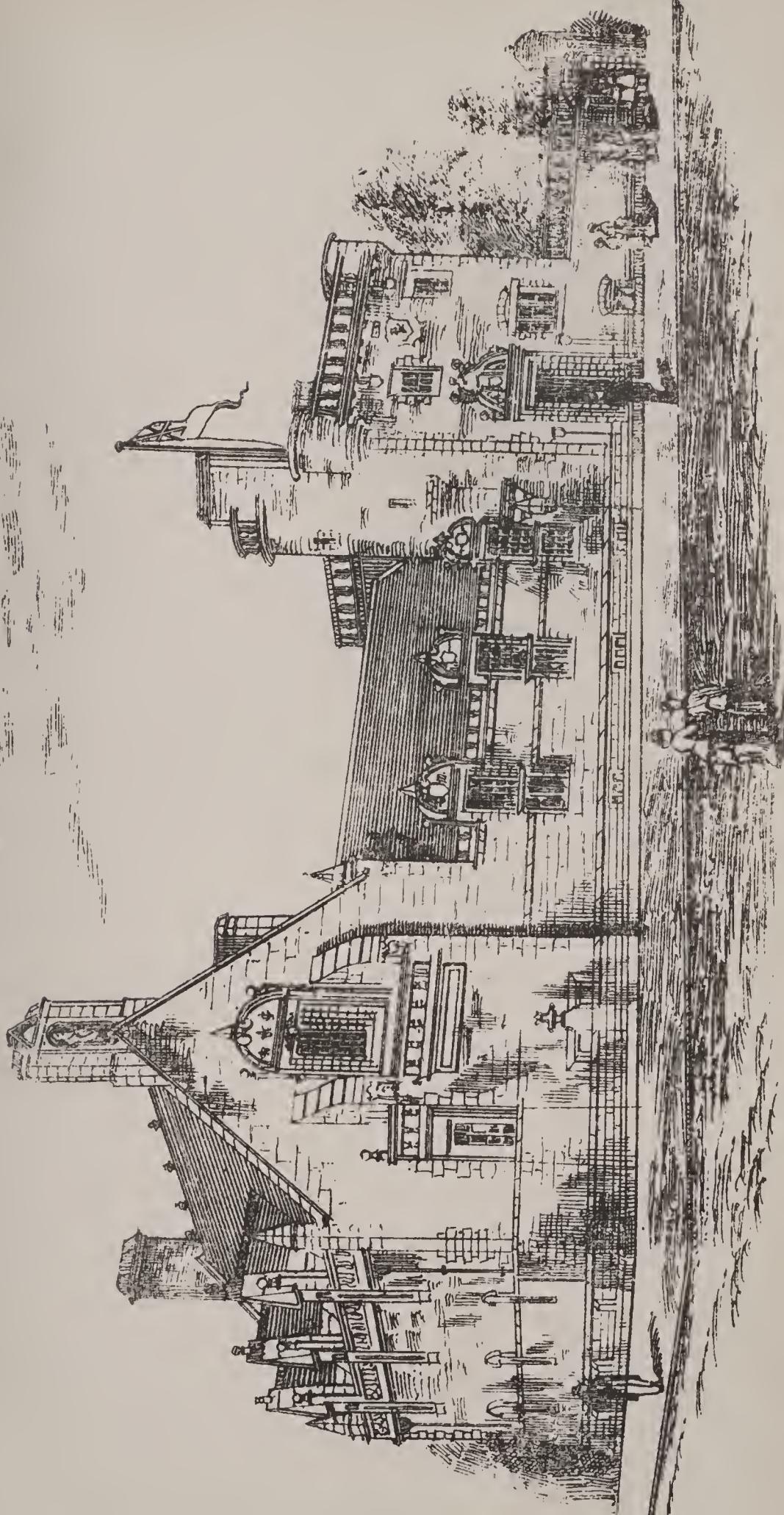
The portraits find fit resting place in the

#### EWING-GILMOUR INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN.

This Institute was built from plans prepared by Messrs John Burnet, Son, & Campbell, architects, Glasgow. It is situated at the extreme north west end of Gilmour Street, and has also a frontage to a new street which runs at right angles thereto.

The style of architecture is the Scotch domestic, and a highly picturesque effect is produced in this instance by its skilful adaptation to the requirements of the case. I was recently much struck, while visiting the goodly pile, with the care which had been taken that every thing, even the most trivial, in connection with the Institute, should be thoroughly artistic, and of the best possible description. Had the place been erected for the use of the female members of the nobility and gentry of the land, instead of humble women who live by toil, it could not have been made more attrac-

EWING GILMOUR INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN.





tive, or have been better equipped. After the hum dran routine of daily work for bread is over, the working girl or woman can enter here, and find not only happiness and comfort, but be benefitted morally, physically, educationally, and intellectually.

It was forcibly impressed upon my mind, while pacing the corridors, noble apartments, and stately hall of the edifice, that even the doing so was educative in its effects, apart from all else which the Institute offers in that direction to its frequenters. Verily, the carrying out of such a work is like mercy, twice blest, blessing alike him who gives and they who take.

Having given above a general idea of the character and object of the building, I go on to say a few words in regard to its internal arrangements and other matters not already treated of.

The principal elevation, in which is the main entrance, is to Gilmour Street, with a frontage of 140ft., the frontage to the new street being 56ft. in length.

The elevation to Gilmour Street is composed of a tower at the east end, in which is the main entrance, and which is the only portion of the building containing two storeys, the porter's private rooms being on the first floor. This tower is connected with the main hall at the west end of the group by a low-lying building containing class-room and library.

The hall, with its large gable end to Gilmour Street, and its side forming the elevation to the new street, forms the principal feature of the group.

Access to the buildings, as I have said, is gained from the Gilmour Street front; a vestibule measuring 13ft. by 7ft. 6in. communicating with the entrance hall, which measures 12ft. 6in. by 12ft. 6in., and from which is the entrance to the gardens and tennis court.

A cloister, measuring 48ft. by 7ft. 6in., extends along the back, from which the common hall, situated at the west end of the building, is reached. This hall measures 52ft., by 30ft. by 37ft.

high, with small gallery at one end, and is used for various purposes.

Situated along the front, between the common hall and the main entrance, are the library, containing 2,700 volumes, and class-room. The library which has communication with the common hall, measures 30ft. by 20ft.; the class-room 20ft by 14ft.

To the east of the entrance hall, extending along the back, is the bath department. The buildings, measuring about 52ft. by 17ft., contain 4 bath-rooms, each measuring 9ft. by 9ft.; cloak-rooms, 10ft. by 9ft. ; lavatory, 11ft. by 10ft., and W.C. accommodation.

The porter's house, with all necessary accommodation, yard and washing green, occupy the front portion of the east end of the buildings.

The floors of the rooms are inlaid oak. On the walls of the library sacred texts are carved, and on the stonework above the doors of the corridor the following Scotch proverbs are hewn out:—"Want o' wit is waur nor want o' gear ;" " Do what ye ought and come what can ;" " Think o' ease but work on ;" " Wark bears witness wha daes weel." On the panels of the large hall and cloister a series of oil paintings by Mr Harrington Mann, Glasgow, are being placed. In the large hall one of these is complete, and treats of the duties and industries of women. The centre figure is that of a young mother, and to the right a girl supporting an old man. Another group of women represents different indoor labour, and another outdoor workers. The cloister panels represent "Scotch pastoral ballads."

The leading contractors for the work were —Mason work, Wm. Barlas, Alexandria ; wright work, John Nairn, Balloch ; roof tile work, A. & D. Mackay, Glasgow ; plumber work, Baird, M'Intyre & Co., Alexandria ; plaster work, John Hutcheson, Dumbarton ; stone carving work, John M'Culloch, London ; heating and ventilation, Musgrave & Co., Belfast, through J. Finlay

& Co., Glasgow ; painting of roof timbers, John Orr & Co., Glasgow ; wrought iron railings, gates, lamps, &c., Starkie, Gardner & Co., London ; ornamental beaded glass work, J. & W. Guthrie, Glasgow ; Thomas Douglas, clerk of works.

This institute, erected by Mr and Mrs W. E. Gilmour of Croftengea, Alexandria, and presented to the inhabitants of the Vale of Leven for the Scotch Girls' Friendly Society, was formally opened on Thursday evening, 21st May, 1891. In addition to the members and associates of the S.G.F.S., numbering about 350, the leading families in the district were present. Mr Gilmour presided, and was supported on the right by Mrs Gilmour, and on the left by Mrs Campbell of Tillichewan. After devotional exercises conducted by the Rev. J. Cromarty Smith, and music by a choir conducted by Mr J. F. M'Farlane, the chairman gave the inaugural address. Votes of thanks were afterwards given.

#### MAJOR GENERAL GILDEA, C.B., BROMLEY HOUSE.

The family of Gildea is of ancient Milesian descent, and the family pedigree deduces it from the ancient monarchs of Ireland. At the time (1708) when that document was drawn up, the head of the house was James Gildea, Esq., of Golough and Port Royal, Magistrate for County Mayo, and High Sheriff about the year 1723, whose eldest son, James Gildea of Clooncormack, had seven sons, two of whom entered the army—Andrew, in the Royal Irish Artillery, and A.D.C. to the Duke of Rutland ; William, in the 62nd Regiment. The youngest, Thomas, born 1770, had issue, James, and George Robert (The Very Rev.), Provost of Tuam, rector of Moylough, and rural dean, whose eldest son, George Frederick, of whom we now speak, entered the army in 1848 ; became Captain, 1858 ; Major, 1873 ; Lieut.-Colonel, 1879 ; Colonel, 1881, and Major General (retired) in 1886. Served in Turkish contingent in the Crimea (Turkish medal) ; was Inspector General of Gymnasia at Aldershot, 1876-80 ; Commanded 2nd

Battalion 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers and garrison of Pretoria in Transvaal war, 1880-81 ; also commanded Troops at taking of Swasty Koppie (where he was fired on under a flag of truce), and at several sorties made from Pretoria (severely wounded). Several times mentioned in despatches, and A.D.C. to the Queen. Was Acting Adjutant and Quarter-Master General of Suakim field force, 1884 (medal and bronze star). Married, first (1863), Fanny, second daughter of Major Tuland Gascoyne of Mackery, Balinasloe ; second, Eliza, R.R.C. (who received the order of the Royal Red Cross for her services to the sick and wounded at Pretoria during the investment of that place by the Boers), daughter of James Campbell, Esq., J.P., D.L., of Tullichewan Castle. Created C.B., 1886. Is in possession of pension for Distinguished Service. Is a Magistrate for the county of Dumbarton.

Bromley House, Alexandria. Army and Navy Club, London.

#### BROCKS OF AUCHENHEGLISH.

Henry Brock, first of Auchenheglish, was born 12th July, 1837. He was son of Henry Brock, manager of the Clydesdale Bank, Glasgow, from its formation in 1838 till his death in 1852. After a careful scholastic training, Henry Brock the younger spent a few years in the Glasgow office of Archd. Orr Ewing & Co., and in that of Robert Alexander & Co. When John Orr Ewing, after his short retiral from business, began it again in 1860, in Croftengaea turkey-red dye works, Alexandria, with which he was formerly connected, he offered Henry Brock a leading position in his Glasgow office, which was accepted. Ten years thereafter (in 1870), Mr Brock was assumed as a partner in the firm of John Orr Ewing & Co. In 1878, on the death of the head of the firm, Henry Brock became senior partner of it, and continued so until his death.

In March, 1863, Mr Brock married Miss Elizabeth Slade Price, daughter of Commander Price, R.N. (of the Moorings,

Anglesey). She died in February, 1871. Henry Brock died in May, 1887, and left a family of two sons and three daughters. He was a J.P. for Dumbartonshire. In politics he was a Conservative. In public affairs he took no active part. He became proprietor of Auchenheglish in 1882.

His eldest son Henry, now of Auchenheglish, was born 18th April, 1864, and became a partner in the firm of John Orr Ewing & Co., in January 1887. He is a captain in 1st Dumbartonshire Rifle Volunteers, a J.P. for the county, and a member of the Dumbartonshire County Council, and thus shows a laudable desire to do a fair share of public work, and not to live for self alone, in inglorious ease.

#### JOHN CHRISTIE, OF ALEXANDRIA WORKS.

This well known, influential, and highly respected inhabitant of the Vale of Leven was born about half-a-century ago in or near Barrhead. Not being born with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth, he was sent early to work, and was for a time with an uncle—a Mr Hyde—assisting in his silk dye-works, at Port-Dundas, Glasgow. Simultaneously, while in this employment, he studied chemistry under Dr. Wallace of that city.

About thirty years ago, on the recommendation of Dr. Wallace, he was appointed chemist to John Orr Ewing & Co., Alexandria Works. For about fifteen years Mr Christie held that position, and latterly was assistant manager. Upon Matthew Clark, the managing partner, leaving the firm, he was promoted to be manager, and in 1878 was raised to the position of partner on the late Mr John Orr Ewing re-arranging the firm at the close of that year. Mr Christie has never posed as a public man, but for all that he has done, and is still doing, good work for the public. Many years ago he took an active interest in starting chemistry and other classes in the Vale. He is a member of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow, and has read important papers

before its members. Further, he is a member of the Parochial Board and School Board of Bonhill, and of the County Council. He is also a J.P. for Dumbartonshire. The friendly Societies of the Vale have in Mr Christie a good friend, and so have the people in his employment. He is an office-bearer of the U.P. Church, and a liberal supporter of all its schemes.

JAMES MUSHET, F.E.I.S.

No gentleman is better known or more highly respected in Alexandria than my acquaintance of fully forty years' standing, Mr James Mushet, F.E.I.S., the genial and talented head master of Main Street School. A native of Glasgow, he received his early education in St. John's Parish School, and afterwards for four years in one of the city endowed schools. Following his own bent, as well as complying with the desire of his parents, he determined to follow out a literary profession. Accordingly, he entered the High School of Glasgow in 1839, where he completed the full curriculum of all the classes for four years ; distinguishing himself as a medallist and prizeman in several of his classes. (It may be interesting to state that among his school-fellows who have since distinguished themselves, there were Sir John Cuthbertson, Wm. Cunningham, late manager of the Clydesdale Bank, and Mr Keith, auctioneer.) With the view of entering the ministry, Mr Mushet attended for two years the classes of Professors Ramsay, Lushington, and Buchanan, at Glasgow University. During the vacation time of these sessions, he had charge of a boarding school at Dunoon, in the first year ; while in the second, he acted as tutor to a gentleman's family in Inverness-shire. This gave him a love for the teaching profession, his first situation being as second-master in Dumbarton Academy in 1848, under the late Gilbert Turner, Esq., its much beloved and popular rector.

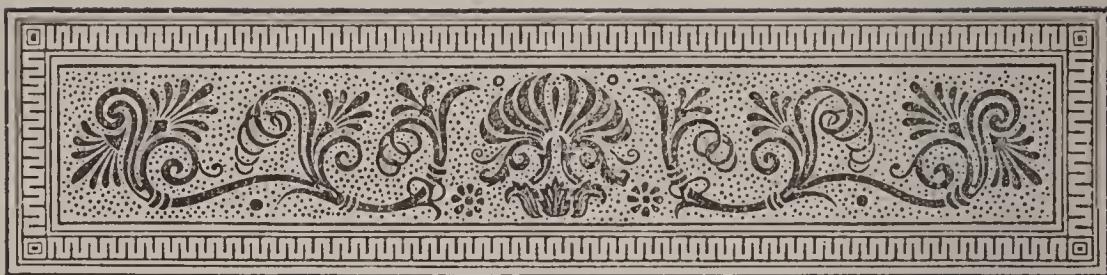
In 1850 he was appointed head-master of one of the Abbey

Parish Schools, Paisley ; his status therefore, as a Parish teacher, covering a period of over forty years. His success in Paisley was quite phenomenal. The school was twice enlarged, and a commencement for a third extension was made in 1857, when he was offered the appointment at Alexandria, which he accepted, and which he has since so ably filled. Since this date also he has acted as session clerk and trustee of Alexandria Parish Church, and is the only one now surviving of the original trustees. A lover of outdoor sports, Mr Mushet was one of the few promoters of the Alexandria Bowling Club, of which he is still a member. In the Vale of Leven Mechanics' Institution he took a lively interest, and acted as its president for many years.

After so many years spent in the discharge of such onerous duties, Mr Mushet is still hale and hearty, and possesses as much enthusiasm for his work as the youngest teacher in the profession. Since the passing of the Education Act in 1872, about five thousand pupils have been enrolled in his school, which was never more flourishing or popular than at the present time.

Mr Mushet married, in 1855, Margaret Hurst, daughter of Samuel Hurst, Esq., H.M.I.R., and has been a widower since 1867. His only surviving daughter, Mary Bain, is married to Mr John B. MacKenzie, M.A., who, after a considerable number of years' successful work as a teacher in Alexandria, is now a student in the Glasgow Divinity Hall of the Church of Scotland.





## Chapter ED.

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### BONHILL AND JAMESTOWN.

FOR very many centuries the Parish Kirk of Bonhill has been used as a place where the only living and true God has been worshipped, and where, 'neath its shade, the dead of many generations have found quiet rest, life's fitful fever o'er.

It is conjectured that the situation of the sacred edifice at "the foot of the rivulet" has given its name to the whole parish. From that derivation it was anciently called "Buthelulle," "Bohtlul," "Buchlul," "Balul," "Bonil," and other cognomens leading up to Bonhill, its present appellation, pronounced Bonil by the inhabitants of the Vale and many others.

The Church of Bonhill is mentioned as far back as the middle of the thirteenth century, in a charter granted by Donald, Earl of Lennox. The superiorities are therein confirmed to Robert de Dunbretane, Clerico. The living was in the gift of the house of Lennox. In 1450 it was bestowed on the Collegiate Church of

Dumbarton by Isabella, Duchess of Albany and Countess of Lennox. In later times, the cure was served by a vicar-pensioner. On the dissolution of the Collegiate establishment, the Parish of Bonhill may be supposed to have reverted to its original independent position. In 1458, Sir James Hamilton was rector of Bonhill, and since his period the charge has been served in succession by about twenty-five clergymen, including, the present incumbent.

Apparently there is still lusty life in "the auld kirk," for its members, adherents, and friends have at this present erected an imposing, costly, Gothic building, at the northern extremity of the kirkyard, for the efficient carrying on within its walls of Sabbath school and other church work.

As the Bonhill Parish Church Hall is really a public one, devoted to parochial uses of the most momentous nature, my readers will not think that I have acted unwisely in giving a brief description of it.

The front elevation of the building faces the Main Street, and one of the side elevations skirts the nothern avenue of approach to the kirk.

The building is set back seven feet from the line of the street, and has a low parapet wall, ornamental railing, and gates in front. The main building is divided into two sections ; the front one give ample facilities for entrance, good library accommodation, quarters for caretaker, and one large class-room ; the second section is composed of the spacious hall, seated for 400 persons, at the back of which and in connection there is an erection which contains two class-rooms, and sufficient lavatory and office accommodation for the entire suite of rooms.

All the apartments are well lighted and ventilated, and the structure as a whole reflects great credit on its architects, Messrs Boston, Menzies, & Morton, Greenock and Bonhill, as well as on

the gentlemen who so handsomely subscribed for its erection, and the committee who had charge of the work.

With the aid of a grant from the Baird Trust, the Parish Church hall has been opened free of debt. That happy consummation has been brought about principally by the exertions of the indefatigable minister of the parish, the Rev. William Simpson. The subscriptions to the building fund ranged from one shilling to one hundred pounds. The total cost of the structure was about £1500. The hearty union of rich and poor in the good work of its erection is refreshing to contemplate.

The situation of the kirk, manse, hall, and kirkyard of Bonhill, beside the smooth-flowing waters of the Leven, is fine. The spacious house where prayer is won't to be made, and its massive square tower, belted by trees of ancient growth, and surrounded by its God's Acre, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest, is an object of great interest and beauty.

The church is also internally fair to see. It contains a first-class organ, to aid in the service of praise, which is at all times rendered here in a most charming, hearty manner. There is an average attendance of 1150 parishioners upon the ordinary diets of worship. Behind the Church, but in a higher, airier elevation, stands the new manse—very different in that and other respects from the manse of “Old Gregor,” a former minister, which lay in the hollow, and was latterly altogether a miserable habitation. Behind the manse the Dumbarton Road runs, flanked by houses secular and sacred, which form the southern portion of the village, having for background smooth, gently undulating, fertile, beautious, richly wooded hills—the combined whole making up a very pretty picture.

Down to 1st November, 1845, when it was levelled by a fierce gale, there grew in the kirkyard an ash tree of quite phenomenal dimensions. In 1784 it was 17 feet 9 inches in circumference at a height of five feet. One foot above ground it measured 33

feet in girth. At a height of six feet, the trunk divided itself into three great arms. Latterly its trunk became hollow, and its branches were clasped with iron bands, so as to prevent them from breaking off from the stock by their own weight. When this monarch bit the dust, there were formed from its bole many articles of furniture, which met with a ready sale, and are highly prized by their possessors on account of the beautiful markings which the wood exhibits. There are two chairs in the vestibule of the kirk of Bonhill made out of its wood, gifted by "Old Gregor," of happy memory.

The kirkyard of Bonhill is large and populous, a goodly portion of the ground erstwhile belonging to "Lang's wee field" being now embraced in it, and well tenanted. The burial ground is not given up to the dominion of the dock and nettle, weeds which fatten on dead men's graves; but for all that the place of sepulture cannot be called a garden one. It has, all over its area, large numbers of well executed, well designed stones of memorial.

Abutting on its southern extremity there are a goodly number of freestone enclosures, a few of which have really some claim to be termed elegant. These are devoted to the housing of the earthly tabernacles of the more illustrious dead of the parish, such as the Buchanans of Ardoch, Dennistoun-Brown's of Balloch Castle (within their plot two lovely white marble Ionic crosses rear their fair, suggestive forms), Rouets of Auchendennan, Robert Arthur of Dillichip, the Turnbulls of Bonhill Place, and the Rev. William Gregor, Minister of Bonhill.

A short distance north of these tombs, on the eastern boundary of the place of burial, there stands the most imposing of all the mausoleums of the graveyard. It was erected by the Martins of Auchendennan, for the reception of their dead. It is built in the form of a circular-topped Gothic arch, with richly sculptured pediment, on which are carved the family arms in relief. Its roof is flagged. Its entrance gate is iron, and is of massive mould, fine

design, and admirable workmanship. Over the vault in which the dead lie there is a heavy iron lid, the top of which stands a foot or so above the level, and has a cross stamped into the entire length of its substance.

The Kippens of Westerton and Busby have, in the near neighbourhood of the Martin burying place, caused to be raised against the east wall a tripartite, upright, highly polished, red granite monument, beautiful in the sweet simplicity of its design.

The history of the major portion of the families mentioned above, and several others of distinction, is given further on, near the end of the chapter.

There are a few old, but not very ornate tombstones in the graveyard, but not nearly so many as one might in reason have expected to find in a God's Acre of such antiquity.

The mortal remains of a goodly number of notable persons are buried within the auld kirkyard o' Bonhill, and of some of the number I proceed to give brief sketches, giving precedence to the memoir of

ROBERT NAIRN,

who was accounted worthy to suffer for righteousness' sake during the persecution of the Covenanters.

Dumbartonshire, during the period mentioned, was in no wise conspicuous for the stand its inhabitants made against the tyranny of the Government; but for all that there were exceptions. Robert Nairn was one of them, and his name is honourably mentioned in the faithful narrative of Wodrow.

The spiritually-minded hero of my tale, who was an industrious shoemaker in the village of Bonhill, frequently attended conventicles, and absented himself from the coldly formal services in the church of the parish, which led up to a warrant being issued at Dumbarton for his apprehension. He long escaped the snares of his pursuers by concealment in the recesses of Napierston wood,

where he laboured in his calling, receiving secretly supplies of food and material, by the hands of members of his family, to enable him to carry on his work. Betimes he was also visited in the place of his concealment by friends who held similar views with himself on civil and religious matters, and with these he prayed and held sweet converse. Oftimes the persecuted saint passed nights and days, even in the most inclement season, with no other shelter than was afforded by the trees of the forest, or a crevice in the bosom of the rocks.

After the death of Charles II., a stricter search was instituted for the Covenanters who were in hiding from the minions of the law ; and although the searchers did not succeed in capturing Robert Nairn, yet they besieged his hiding place so closely that they prevented or intercepted his customary supplies, and forced him to permanently remain exposed to the inclemency of the weather, with the result that his health became so much impaired that he died almost immediately on his removal to his usual dwelling place, within less than two months after the accession of James II.—a persecutor even more relentless than his infamous brother.

The death of the godly shoemaker was deeply lamented—of which fact strong proof was given at his funeral. The domineering faction's representatives prohibited the mourners from burying the dead man in the tomb of his fathers, but popular indignation was inflamed so fiercely by the dastardly attempt of M'Kechnie, the incumbent of the parish, and his unscrupulous tools, that they were made to flee from the wrath of the villagers like chaff before the wind ; and then the departed saint's mortal remains were laid reverently beside those of his forbears, in a spot nigh to the gate of the place of burial.

The memory of the just is blessed : the perfume thereof long abideth as a sweet-smelling savour in the land. And so it fareth with him who is the theme of my tale. His name and fame are

embalmed in traditionary story, and are frequently the subject of reverential observation. Such potency there is in the remembrance of a noble, well spent life. A monument with a suitable inscription has been erected over the remains of the honest, faithful Covenanter, by a descendant who doubtless felt proud of his ancestor—and with good reason. The inscription on the stone runs thus :—“ To the memory of Robert Nairn, of Bonhill, who died 15th April, 1685, of illness occasioned by severe hardships and privations to which he was subjected for his steady adherence to the cause of truth and religious liberty ; and in token of respect for the piety, patience, and Christian fortitude for which he was distinguished in that period of peril and persecution, this stone is erected by Thomas Nairn, of Bankhead, in the year 1826.

‘ Patriots have toiled, and in their country’s cause  
Bled nobly ; and their deeds, as they deserve,  
Receive good recompense ;  
But martyrs struggle for a brighter prize,  
And win it with more pain and suffering,  
Yet few remember them.’ ”

John Nairn of Dalvait, who is a lineal descendant of the persecuted saint, Robert Nairn, possesses two highly interesting relics of his illustrious forbear, namely, his “ Word of God,” a “ breeches Bible,” published in Holland of date 1604, and a pocket book made by him for his son.

Robert Nairn’s descendants for the greater part of last century were tenants of the farm of Millburn, and also of its grain mill, both of which are now occupied by Mr Turnbull. The mill has, however, been converted into a chemical work, and greatly enlarged.

Mr John Nairn has in his possession some of the old farm leases, which are curious and interesting reading. Among other things, they show that at the period referred to the rent was in great part paid in kind—namely, with grain, &c. During the

time the Nairns were tenants of Millburn, the principal residence of their landlords, the Smolletts of Bonhill, was at the Place of Bonhill—and the Turnbulls are also tenants of this mansion house.

The next occupant of a lowly bed in the God's Acre of Bonhill of whose life I pen a few sentences is the

REV. WILLIAM GREGOR.

Of this eccentric divine I said a good deal in one of my former works. I will here only state regarding him that the relics of the deceased minister lie under a table stone within an enclosure near the centre of the south boundary wall of the kirkyard. He was born 1769, ordained minister of the parish of Bonhill 1809, and died 1848, aged 80. A few years ago a neat little volume was issued from the press entitled “Disruption Memories,” the author being Mr James Barr, a native of the Vale of Leven. In that volume there is a deal of very interesting matter about “Auld Gregor,” which those interested in the queer auld carle would do well to peruse. The Rev. Mr Gregor was a fair specimen of the ministers called “moderate” in pre-Disruption times. He was possessed of good, if not transcendant abilities. He was witty and shrewd. He did not fear what the Mrs Grundies of his age might say regarding him. Many of his queer sayings and doings are yet the delight of the older parishioners.

ROBERT BLAIR, FARMER, ARDOCH-HILL AND WOODNEUK.

In the ground to the front of the Church there is an upright freestone monument of about seven or eight feet in height, erected by the above Robert Blair, on which there is inscribed the name of himself, his wife, and several members of his family. Robert Blair—eldest son of Robert Blair, farmer, Ardoch-hill, Dumbarton, and Ann Brock, his wife—was born in 1799, and succeeded his father in the tenancy of the farm on his marriage

in 1824. The then laird was Lord Stonefield of Levenside. The elder Blair was a life tenant of the farm, but removed to Maryland on the marriage of his son. At that period there were a large number of small farmers and cottars located in this part of the parish. There were thirteen decent, well-doing families came from Dumbarton Muir, above the Maryland farm, to the Parish Church of Dumbarton on a Sunday. These have left no successors save one. The land they tilled has reverted to a state of nature, and the smoke of a dozen hearths is quenched.

Sixty years ago, in that district, the illicit distillation and smuggling of whiskey was in full swing, and many lively scenes were witnessed when the gaugers from Dumbarton swooped down upon the bothies to harry and destroy. The cottars and farmers were, as a rule, on good terms with the free trade distillers, and the farmers and cottars never lacked a well-filled bottle of the "dew of the mountain," for the delectation of themselves and friends. After Robert Blair the younger had held in succession the occupancy of the farms of Ardoch-hill and Woodneuk, he retired from farming about the year 1840, and went to live in a cottage he had built at the south end of Bonhill, removing shortly thereafter to Dumbarton, where he remained until his death in 1876. He, by his wife, Janet Wood, had born unto him six sons and seven daughters, of whom survive three sons—Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Bailie Robert Blair, Andrew Blair, draper, and John Blair, grocer, all of Dumbarton—and three daughters—Elizabeth (Mrs M'Intyre, Kippen), Ann (Mrs M'Cabe, Jersey), and Agnes (Mrs Black, Glasgow.) Robert Blair second, who has been the principal theme of my story, was a good type of a genuine Scot of the old school. He was shrewd, ready witted, full of proverbial wisdom and old saws, very fond of a crack, and had a wonderfully retentive memory, which made him quite an authority on local matters relating to the past. He was highly esteemed by all classes of society.

## DR ALEXANDER LECKIE.

This at one time influential and much beloved man in the Vale of Leven was born at Campsie about the year 1806. He matriculated in Glasgow University, and began the practice of his profession in Bonhill, in the year 1827. He was an eminently successful surgeon and physician, and enjoyed the entire confidence of his numerous patients. The doctor did notable service during the visitations of cholera to the Vale.

In 1829, he was one of the originators of the first Vale of Leven Temperance Society, the second of its kind in Scotland, and was chairman thereof, and continued to the end of his days to take a deep interest in its welfare. In brief, there was no movement of his time for the amelioration of the condition of the people of the Vale in which he did not take part. When the weight of years began to press heavily on him he retired from practice, and resided at Dunoon for a time. From thence he went to Glasgow to live, and in that city he died, and there he is buried, in Annfield Cemetery. His death took place in 1877.

The doctor left behind him a wife, a son, and two daughters, the latter of whom alone survive, and they live in Helensburgh.

In my wanderings in Bonhill kirkyard I observed at the back of the Church a tombstone erected to the memory of

## ROBERT SCOTT,

who was in his time a well-known and notable man of the Vale of Leven. In early life he was a block printer, and latterly, a vintner in the village of Bonhill. He was born in 1822, and died in June, 1878. There were few Vale men of his period more highly esteemed than he, for public spirit and private worth.

In the good old time, ere footballism had got such a hold of the people of Levenside, shinty-playing was in great vogue, and Mr Scott took a very active interest in that manly sport. He often led his team of Vale men on to victory. On one famous occasion,

thirty-six years ago, when the men of the Vale were challenged by the men of Luss to play shinty against them, for three hours at a stretch, in Rossdhu policies, Robert Scott was umpire for the one party, and the late Sir James Colquhoun, Bart., for the other.

The result of the contest was that the dwellers on Leven's banks were victors by ten "hails" to none. Mr Scott's men were under admirable discipline and full of enthusiasm, and they played to perfection.

At the conclusion of the play Mr Scott went forward to where Sir James stood and asked him if he was thoroughly satisfied that his men were defeated fairly. Sir James answered that he was, and further said that he had only one favour to ask at the hands of Mr Scott, and that was that he would come to Luss and learn the Luss men how to play shinty in as good style as the Vale team had done that day.

When Robert Scott was removed from our midst he left a family of four sons and one daughter.

I have now a few words to say relative to notable living men, giving precedence to the clergy.

REV. WILLIAM SIMPSON,

Minister of Bonhill, was born in 1842, at Alyth, in the east of Perthshire; educated at the Alyth Schools; was for four years engaged in business as a merchant at Blairgowrie. Went to Glasgow in 1861, to pursue a business career; the following year left business to study for the ministry at Glasgow University, and became one of the parish missionaries under the late Rev. Dr. Norman MacLeod of the Barony. He also acted as amanuensis to his reverence, and prepared for the press many of the Dr.'s articles, speeches, stories, and sermons, which appeared during the last four years of his life.

Licensed as a Preacher by the Glasgow Presbytery in December, 1869, he acted successively as assistant minister at St. John's

and Anderston Churches; and in April, 1871, was ordained minister at Auchterarder, in his native county. He was chairman of the first Auchterarder School Board, and took a special interest in educational and parochial affairs. Leaving Auchterarder, he was inducted minister of Bonhill, on 9th January, 1878.

He was appointed clerk to the Presbytery of Dumbarton, in succession to the Rev. Dr Shanks of Craigrownie, who died in March, 1887.

The Rev Mr Simpson is a man of great energy and perseverance in the prosecution of his sacred calling. His ministry in the parish has been an entire success. He is equally fortunate in restoring the lost sheep to his flock, and lost tiends to his benefice. His knowledge of Church law is accurate and extensive, and he is considered an authority on that subject.

REV. T. COLLINS,

Ministers to the spiritual wants of the members and adherents of the Free Church of the village of Bonhill, which of late has shewn in several ways that it is not to be numbered with the villages in the land which are finished. In passing through it recently, I was glad to see evidences to that effect. In approaching it from the south, an important row of high-class, two-storey workmen's houses were passed, bearing the name of "Dillichip Terrace," the property of Sir Archd. Orr Ewing, Bart. These houses are models of substantiality and tidiness, but I would that some little picturesqueness had been imparted to the structures, and that each had not been an exact repeat of the other. Further on, the Bonhill Institute, a fine commodious red sandstone building, the property of the Free Church congregation, met my eye, while the appearance of the adjacent many-gabled Free Church itself showed unmistakable evidence of having been greatly enlarged and improved of recent date, and thereby brought abreast of the requirements made upon it.

Its pastor is a native of Glasgow. In his early years he spent a period of time in the office of his brother, who owned the Elliot Street Engine works of that city. Afterwards, Mr Collins took a fancy to the Law, and entered a writer's office. Matriculated in the old University of Glasgow in 1868, and in the Free Church College in 1872. Licensed by the Free Presbytery of Glasgow, 1876. Called to a charge in Glasgow, and also to one in St. Andrews in the same year.

Ordained to Bonhill, August, 1877. A few years afterwards, the place of worship was enlarged. In 1886, the congregation built the Bonhill Institute, alluded to above, for Sabbath school and evangelistic work, and also for social purposes ; it is seated for 500. In 1890, the enlargement of the Church just spoken of has resulted in between 300 and 400 sittings being added to its capacity.

The people attached to the Church have effected all that not inconsiderable work without almost any outside help, and all the buildings are free of debt, which is highly creditable to their loyalty to the Church of their choice.

#### REV. WILLIAM SMITH

has the spiritual oversight of the United Presbyterians of the place. Their house of prayer has rather a U.P.-ish look about it perched as it is on a steep eminence overlooking Bonhill Bridge, the northern portion of the village in which the church stands, and much of Alexandria. The building is of the severely plain, pavilion roofed, unattractive type, which was all too prevalent in the Kingdom sixty years ago, when it was erected. Before the amalgamation of the "Relief" and "United Secession" religious bodies, the church we are treating of belonged to the former sect.

Since its origin it has been fairly successful. Its present minister was born near Cupar Fife, 2nd December, 1831. His early education was got at Letham and Monimail. When twenty years

of age he matriculated in St. Andrew's University, and passed through the usual course of four sessions. Having then been examined by the U.P. Presbytery of Cupar and certified to the Divinity Hall, he entered the same, and attended five sessions. He was afterwards licensed as a preacher of the gospel by the U.P. Presbytery of Edinburgh.

Mr Smith was for a period engaged in teaching in St. Andrews and Edinburgh. In the December of 1862 he received a call from Bonhill, which he accepted, and was there ordained on 24th March, 1863. His ministry has been in every respect an eminently successful one.

Two eminent captains of industry now fall to be noticed

SIR ARCHIBALD ORR EWING OF BALLIKINRAIN, M.P. FOR  
DUMBARTONSHIRE.

In a work published by me a few years ago I gave a sketch of the extensive works of Archd. Orr Ewing & Coy., in the Vale of Leven, and also gave at same time a notice of the principal partner's life history. That being the case, I will only touch very slightly here upon either of these themes.

Sir Archibald is fifth son of the late William Ewing of Ardvullin, Dunoon. After a lengthened and prosperous career in the turkey red dyeing and calico printing line in the Vale of Leven, he in 1862 purchased the estate of Ballikinrain, Stirlingshire, on which he resides in a spacious, picturesque, princely mansion, erected by him in the Scotch baronial style. He has sat continuously in the Commons House of Parliament as representative of Dumbartonshire from 1868 to this date (1891). He was Lord Dean of Guild of Glasgow from 1863 to 1865. He was an active promoter of the new, magnificent pile of buildings on Gilmore Hill, Glasgow, in which are the quarters of the University of that city, and of its University Court Sir Archibald has been a member since 1869.

He is also a Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for the counties of Dumbarton, Stirling, and Lanark.

The subject of this brief memoir was born 4th June, 1819, and married Elizabeth Lindsay, only daughter of James Reid of Berri-dale and Caldercruiks, and has surviving issue five sons and one daughter.

Sir Archibald has been and still is a captain of industry who takes a fatherly interest in his employees. He is also a munificent benefactor of the districts in which his works and his estates are situated.

E. J. JONES, DALMONACH,

Is one of the Vale of Leven's widest known and best liked employers of labour. He was born at Rhodes, near Manchester, in 1831. His first start in business life was made in the calico printing works of Messrs Salis, Schwabe & Co., of Rhodes.

In 1863 he became sub-manager of the Dalmonach printing works. In 1864 he became manager-in-chief. In 1866 he was assumed as a partner in the firm, which carries on business at Bonhill under the designation of James Black & Co.

Mr Jones, in addition to discharging the onerous duties attached to his position as resident managing partner of the extensive works above named, finds time to efficiently perform several important duties of a public nature. He is a member of the School Board, Chairman of the Parochial Board, a County Councillor, and a Justice of the Peace.

Mr Jones has done much in the way of improving the sanitary state of the village by assisting heartily in the introduction, of recent date, of a copious supply of pure water from Lochlomond, and also in the way of making the drainage of the place more perfect than it was. But despite these improvements, and the erection in recent years of sundry good houses, both of a public and private nature, Bonhill in its general features is pretty much the same as it was fifty years ago.

Having in the foregoing pages presented to you, my readers, a good deal of miscellaneous matter relating to men living and dead, and things past and present, which are or were connected with Bonhill in an intimate way, I now go on to give brief notices of several historic or notable families whose names are in an especial manner associated with the annals of the parish, the first of the number being

#### THE EARLS AND DUKES OF LENNOX.

One of the principal residences of that illustrious family, of which Her most gracious Majesty the Queen, Earl Darnley, and the Duke of Richmond, Lennox, and Gordon, are the modern representatives, was at Balloch Castle, in the parish of Bonhill, and it therefore falls within the scope of this work to give a rapid sketch of their history.

The ancient earldom of Lennox comprehended the original sheriffdom of Dumbarton, consisting of the whole of the modern county, and a large portion of Stirlingshire, with part of the counties of Perth and Renfrew. The first Earl of Lennox of his race was Alwyn, who flourished towards the end of the twelfth century. The second Alwyn, son of above, was in full possession of the title and estates in 1199. His eldest son, Maldonin, third Earl of Lennox, was one of the guarantees on the part of Alexander II. when the differences between that monarch and Henry III. were adjusted, in 1237. Up to this time the important, strong Castle of Dumbarton had been the principal messuage of the Earls of Lennox, but after 1238, when a new charter was granted of the earldom, the Castle, and the harbour, territory, and fisheries of Murrach, contiguous to it, were excluded from the deed. The Castle since that time has continued to be a royal fort, and the other subjects spoken of were bestowed on the Royal Burgh of Dumbarton. Earl Maldonin had a son, Malcolm, who predeceased him in 1248, leaving a son, Malcolm, fourth earl, a

distinguished man. He died before 1292. His son Malcolm, fifth earl, in 1296, with other Scottish leaders, invaded Cumberland and assaulted Carlisle. In the same year he swore a forced fealty to Edward I.; but in 1306 he was one of the first to place himself under the leadership of Robert the Bruce, and ever after continued one of his most trusty and valiant followers. He was slain at Halidon Hill, 19th July, 1333. His son Donald, sixth earl, was one of the nobles who, in 1357, became bound for the payment of the ransom of King David II. On 16th March, 1371, the Earl was present at the coronation of Robert II. at Scone, and on the following day swore homage and fealty to him. He died the same year, and, having no male issue, the direct line ceased with him. The earldom then devolved on his only daughter, Margaret, who married her cousin and nearest male heir of the family, hight Walter, son of Allan de Fasslane, who in his wife's right became seventh Earl of Lennox. Their son Duncan became Earl of Lennox during his father's lifetime, his mother and father having made a resignation of the dignity in his favour.

Duncan, the eighth earl, had no male issue, and was left a widower with three daughters—Isabella, the eldest of whom, in 1391, married Murdoch, Duke of Albany, Regent of Scotland 1419-1425. His second daughter, Margaret, married Sir Robert Menteith of Rusky; and his other daughter, Elizabeth, became the wife of Sir John Stewart of Dernely.

His being father-in-law to the regent of the kingdom made Earl Duncan, for a time, one of the most potent noblemen of the realm; but that proud position proved in the end fatal to him. On the return of King James I. from his long captivity in England, the earl fell a victim to that monarch's rage against all persons connected with his uncle Albany. Earl Duncan was beheaded at Stirling, with his son-in-law, Duke Murdoch, and his grandson, Sir Alexander Stewart, on 25th May, 1425, the earl being then about eighty years of age. His estates were not



OLD COLLEGE BOW,  
PORTION OF COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, BUILT BY ISABELLA,  
DUCHESS OF ALBANY, AT DUMBARTON.



forfeited, but remained in possession of his eldest daughter, the widowed Duchess Isabella, whose eldest surviving son, Walter, was beheaded at Stirling the day before his father and grandfather met the same fate. Duchess Isabella was for a time confined in Tantallon Castle, East Lothian ; but after she got her freedom from thence she spent the remainder of her life at Inchmurrin, the then family residence on Lochlomond. In 1450 she founded the Collegiate Church of Dumbarton, and gifted it with various lands in the earldom. She died before 1460.

After the Reformation, the Collegiate Church of St. Mary was allowed to get into a ruinous state, and become a convenient quarry whence material was obtained for mending roads and building dykes, walls, bridges, and dwelling houses. The only important portion of the sacred edifice which is still to the fore is one of its pier arches, and it has been removed from its original position overlooking the broad meadow to Church Street, where it forms the entrance to the parsonage of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church ; but the "College bow" still remains the property of the Town Council. Other fragments of the goodly edifice are built into several buildings in the town. For instance there is quite a number of such incorporated with the erstwhile town house of the MacKenzies of Caldervan, in High Street, now the property of Mr William Henderson. Beginning at the top, it may be said that the picturesque dormer windows of the building are evidently spoil from the Collegiate Church. Over the one to the left, as a finial, there is a somewhat grotesque figure of a diminutive man or boy in sitting posture, having a round flat bonnet on his head. Over the central window, which is by far the most imposing of the number, there is a latin cross crowned by a mitre, on one side of which there is a Scotch thistle, and on the other side a *fleur de lys*, all admirably sculptured. Beneath is this inscription :

Tu Des,  
Corona Decus ;

which may be translated—Do thou give me glory for a crown. Suggesting to the thoughtful reader the well-known phrase—No cross, no crown.

On the same dormer window there appear engraven the dates 1790 and 1732, one or other, or both, representing, most probably, the period or periods when the material alluded to was utilised for secular purposes. The building to which it is such a great adornment was originally a two-storey one, but it was unroofed fifty-eight years after it was built, and another storey and attics added to it in 1790.

The eastmost of the dormer windows has for finial a small globular shapen stone, which looks as if it had formed the apex of a pinnacle in the “auld Colledge.”

In a line with the second storey of the building there is to be seen in good preservation, embodied in the east wall at its junction with the neighbouring property of “Walker’s Close,” a piscina, in which the sacred vessels of the sanctuary of St. Mary were washed, after being used in the commemoration of our Lord’s death.

Further appropriations from the venerable kirk of Our Lady may be seen in High Street, over the Quay Pend, which pierces a tall building of date 1623, once the property and residence of the Earls of Glencairn. The filchings alluded to are in the shape of two projecting corbeil stones built in over the centre of the arch. The lower one exhibits, as you look straight up at it from beneath, a grotesque man’s head with winglike appendages; and the upper stone has the appearance of having formed the capital of a pillar from whence had sprung an arch.

In addition to the above relics of the “auld Colledge,” there is apparently another from the same quarry built into the house which is situate at the east junction of College Street with High Street. The relic alluded to is a man’s life size face, having eyes closed as if in death or sleep. This completes the list of all

the antique stones of the burgh with which I am familiar, which can, with any shew of reason, be associated with the goodly ecclesiastical edifice reared to the honour and glory of God by the pious Duchess of Albany.

In the preparation of the above I have been indebted to my good friends Rev. W. Stephen and Rector A. T. Watson of Dumbarton, and Mr Charles W. Pearce, of Liverpool, for assistance.

After Duchess Isabella's decease, the partition of the Lennox took place. Her sister Margaret's son, Sir Robert Menteith, had a son Patrick, who died before 1455, and his two sisters, Agnes and Elizabeth, became his co-heiresses in the half of the lands of the earldom, as well as in the extensive lands of Menteith. Agnes married Sir John Haldane of Gleneagles, and the Mill of Haldane still keep his memory green. Elizabeth married John Napier of Merchiston, and we still have Napierston in the parish.

Elizabeth of Lennox, youngest sister of Duchess Isabel, and wife of Sir John Stewart of Derneley, had a son, Sir Alan (who was slain by Sir Thomas Boyd of Kilmarnock), and his eldest son was the celebrated Sir John Stewart, created Lord Derneley in 1460 or 1461, who was served heir to his great grandfather, Earl Duncan, in 1473, in the half of the earldom of Lennox, and in its principal messuage ; and he became for a time titular Earl of Lennox.

In 1475, Sir John Haldane, who had been abroad, returned to Scotland, and got the service in favour of Sir John Stewart reduced ; but in 1488 Lord Derneley again assumed the title of Earl of Lennox, on the death of James III.

Matthew, the eldest son, second Earl of Lennox of the Stewart name, succeeded his father in 1494. Earl Matthew led the Lennox men to the fatal field of Flodden, where he was slain. John, his son and successor, acted a prominent part during the turbulent minority of James V. He was wounded in a battle at Linlithgow, 4th September, 1526, and afterwards slain in cold blood while

being taken to a place of safety—and thus fell “the wisest, the best, the bravest man in Scotland of his day.” The earls who succeeded were men of mark, and acted no unimportant part in the making of the history of their country. Lord Darnley, eldest son to Matthew, Earl Lennox, having married Mary, Queen of Scots, on their son, James VI., the earldom by right of blood devolved, as heir to his grandfather. The King, in 1572, granted to his uncle Charles the whole of the family estates and jurisdictions. In 1581, Esme Stuart, seventh Earl, was created Duke of Lennox. On the demise, in 1672, of Charles, sixth Duke of Lennox and fourth of Richmond, without issue, Charles II., as nearest collateral heir male, entered into possession of the estates, which, with the titles of Duke of Richmond and Lennox, he conferred on his base son, Charles, by the Duchess of Portsmouth. In 1702, the duke sold the whole of his property in the Lennox.

#### LINDSAYS OF BONHILL.

This at one time notable family was of long standing in the district. Malcolm, fifth Earl of Lennox, early in the fourteenth century granted to Patrick de Lindsay, son of Hugh de Lindsay, the lands of Bonhill, which marched with Tillichewan, creating him at the same time hereditary bailie and forester of the Lennox estate. Donald, the sixth earl, in confirming his father's grant to the son of Patrick Lindsay, goes on to describe the estate as “The whole land of Bonhill or Leven, lying between the rivulet known as Poachy Burn and the Blindsyke, on the north side of Carman, and descending to the Halyburn, and from the latter to the old Causey, which lies beyond the Moss, and descending thence to the water of Leven.” In after years the lands of Bonhill are described as “The eight pound lands of Bonhill-Lindsay, the fifty shilling lands of Bonhill-Noble, and the ten merks land of Bonhill-Napier,” portions of the estate having fallen then into the hands of the Nobles of Ardardan and Napiers of Kilmahew.

The Lindsay family possessed their lands till 1684, when they fell by purchase into the possession of James Smollett of Stainflett. Into his hands the evidents of the family also went. These have not been well preserved. The earliest of the number is of date 1512, being a charter by Matthew, Earl of Lennox, of the twelve merk land of Bullul-Lindsay, with the office of "Marofeodous" of the Earldom of Lennox, to William Lindsay. In 1541, Kentigern Lindsay was in possession, then in succession John about 1574, Quentin in 1595, and another Quentin in 1641, who had an only daughter upon whom he settled the estate, upon condition that she married a gentleman bearing the name and arms of Lindsay, which she complied with by marrying William, Lindsay eldest son of the laird of Wauchope ; but, their affairs getting into a ravelled state, they were obliged to part with the estate as noticed above.

#### SMOLLETTS OF BONHILL.

Of this ancient house I had a good deal to say in a former work of mine entitled "Dumbarton, Vale of Leven, and Lochlomond," but I have so written this notice of the family that it will be in some measure supplementary to the one alluded to.

The estates of this honourable family lie in the parishes of Cardross and Bonhill, the latter of which stretches northward from Dumbarton, up the west side of the river Leven, and also a few miles up west Lochlomond-side ; and on this latter portion Cameron House, the family seat, stands.

At what exact period the family achieved a leading position in society is not certain, but it is certain that they had done so about five centuries ago, as can be proved by records in connection with the Royal Burgh of Dumbarton still extant. At that far-back period they were merchants and shipowners in the county town. In subsequent times members of the family held therein the posts of Provosts and Bailies of the Burgh—furthering its interests, and

evidently attending to their own ; and within its precincts they held several heritable subjects, and had their dwelling-place. They also, in course of time, acquired landed property in its near vicinage. Silvertonhill, Corslet, and Roundredding owned them as lords, as did also Over Kirkton, Clerkhill, Kilmahew, Auchensail, Drumsiddoch, Walton, &c., all in the neighbouring parish of Cardross. They also owned several acres in Argyll and Renfrew shires. Almost all the foregoing lands have been parted with one after another, until their estate is confined to the borders of Leven and Lochlomond ; but it is an exceedingly valuable one.

John Smollett, from whom can be traced distinctly the house of Bonhill, was admitted a burgess of Dumbarton in 1638. In 1666 he purchased Pillanflat and Rosruvan from William Lindsay of Bonhill. He died in 1680, leaving an only son, James, born in 1648, who became the first Smollett of Bonhill. He purchased that estate from William and Anne Lindsay in 1684, and the Dalquhurn property from Charles Fleming in 1692, all of which lands are still in the possession of the family. In 1690 he was made Judge of the Commissary Court, Edinburgh. In 1715 he was created a deputy-lieutenant of the county of Dumbarton, and was knighted by King William III. In 1707 Sir James was appointed one of the Commissioners for framing the Articles of Union with England. He was the first member who represented the Dumbarton district of burghs in the British Parliament. He married Jane, daughter of Macaulay of Ardencaple, and by her had several sons and daughters. One of the number, Archibald, became father of the eminent Tobias Smollett, and also of Jean Smollett, who married Alexander Telfer of Symington. This lady, upon succeeding to the family estates on the death of her cousin-german, Commissary Smollett, once more resumed her maiden name. Her son and successor, Alexander Telfer-Smollett of Bonhill, married Cecilia, daughter of John Renton of Lamber-ton, Berwickshire, and had issue one daughter, and four sons—

1, Alexander, Lieut.-Colonel Coldstream Guards, and M.P. for Dumbartonshire, killed at the battle of Aikmaar in 1799 ; 2, John Rouet, a naval officer, who succeeded to the estate ; 3, Tobias George, Captain 78th Regiment, Ross-shire Highlanders ; 4, James, accidentally killed at sea. The second son, Rear Admiral John Rouet Smollett, to whom the succession to the estate opened up, married, first, Louisa, daughter of William Rouet of Auchen-dennan, Lochlomondside, and by her had an only daughter, Louisa, who died in infancy. In 1800 he married Elizabeth, second daughter of the Hon. Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, Ayrshire, second son of the second Earl of Glasgow, having issue five daughters and two sons—Alexander, and Patrick Boyle. In 1842 the former became laird on the demise of his father. From 1841 to 1859 he represented the county of Dumbarton in the House of Commons, and was for many years Convener of the County. He died on 25th February, 1881. His brother, Patrick Boyle Smollett, has inherited the estates, and he and his sister Cecilia are the sole survivors of the family. P. B. Smollett for many years held an exalted post in the East India Company's civil service, and was for a time M.P. for and Convener of the county of Dumbarton.

The ancient mansion house of the Smolletts, incidentally mentioned in a foregoing page, which was situated on the south side of High Street, Dumbarton, I well recollect. Sixty years ago I knew it as a semi-ruinous building, which, after Sheriff Gray (long deceased) had removed from it, had been converted into two small shops and several humble dwellings, and had therefore fallen from its former high estate. The corbie-stepped gable of the house fronted the street, and was three storeys in height. About half a century ago the top of it, which had been for several years off the plumb, toppled over and fell upon the foot of a woman named Cameron, and crushed it so badly that it had to be amputated either in whole or in part.

The house was rebuilt in 1844 by the late laird of Bonhill, and some years thereafter sold by him to my deceased old friend, Bailie M'Lean, and is now the property of his son-in-law and erstwhile partner, Archibald Fraser Garvie, Esq., Captain, 1st R. & D.A.V., and treasurer of the Royal Burgh of Dumbarton, whom I am also proud to call friend.

The paucity of remains of the dwelling-places of the more opulent of the burgesses of Dumbarton to be found within its bounds has often been a cause of wonderment to myself and others. I recently found one or two relics of the domicile built by Margaret Smollett, daughter of James Smollett of Over Kirkton, wife of James Bontine of Succoth, who succeeded, about the middle of the seventeenth century, to the heritable property of the family in Kirkton, Clerkhill, and in the burgh of Dumbarton. She evidently, in 1661, rebuilt the family dwelling-place in the burgh, according to the date carved on an old stone built into the back wall over the close of Treasurer Garvie's property. Her initials, M.S., are engraven on another stone within a heart-shaped design in another part of the subjects. Yet another stone, away some distance from the others, and possibly the most interesting of the number, is built into the back wall of the front property, to the west. It has formed the outer lintel of the ancient hall door, and on it is carved in clear and distinct characters, within a moulding of good design,

INEUNTIBUS, SALUS, SALUS, EXEUNTIBUS.

The inscription may be translated—"Welcome the coming, speed the parting guest." Thus did these ancients in courtly fashion greet their visitors.

#### THE ROUETS OF AUCHENDENNAN-RHIE.

There are three Auchendennans in the Bonhill lands. These are, in the words of an old rhyme,

“ Auchindennan-Dennistoun,  
 Auchindennan-Rhie,  
 Auchindennan Lindsay,  
 The best o’ a’ the three.”

The superiority of Auchindennan-Rhie, or King’s Auchindennan, was acquired at an early date by the burgh of Dumbarton. It was most probably gifted to the authorities of that historic town for the support or upkeep of one or other of the religious establishments of the place. Sir Thomas Watson, chaplain of the rood-altar in Dumbarton in the early part of the sixteenth century, feued Auchendennan-Rhie to Andrew Dennistoun of the Ferry-lands of Cardross, in whose family it remained till 1609, when they sold the lands to Robert Napier of Blackyards. In 1620 his son sold them to John Napier of Kilmahew, whose descendants family held them for about a century, when they were alienated by George Maxwell Napier to Peter Napier of Napierston, from whom, in 1718, the property was acquired by a younger son of Nicol Bontine of Ardoch, Cardross. Auchendennan-Rhie was subsequently purchased by William Rouet, and either he or one of his successors, in questionable taste, called the mansion house of the estate Belretiro.

Where the Rouets came from, when they settled on Lochlomond-side, deponent knoweth not; but it consists with his knowledge to say that they at the beginning of last century owned the lands of Little Botturich and Nockour, on Lochlomond’s south-eastern margin.

So that my readers may glean some little information regarding this at one time territorially important family, I give the following transcriptions from the tablets in their place of sepulture, in chronological order:—

M. S.

MELVILL WHYTE, armigeri optimiase spei juvenis qui veram spirauis gloriam invidiam fefellit, obiit 1779,—ÆT 21. H.M.P.G., ROUET.

*Translation.*—A youth of warfare of the highest hope, who, breathing true glory, despised envy. Died 1779, aged 21.

“Erected to the memory of WILLIAM ROUET, Esq., of Auchendennan, who died iv. June, MDCCCLXXXV., by his affectionate widow, Louisa Whyte, whose greatest consolation is to remember his affection and his virtues ; her greatest ambition to imprint them on the hearts of their children.

Here also are deposited the remains of LOUISA WHYTE ROUET, who, after having survived her husband and her children, and seen her whole hopes of earthly happiness extinguished, exhibited for many years a bright example of pious resignation ; and on the 20th day of March, 1813, yielded up her spirit to God, in the humble hope of being again united to the objects of her tenderest affections, and her unceasing remembrance.”

“Sacred to the memory of AGNES MUIR ROUET, daughter of the late William Rouet, Esq., of Auchendennan, and of Louisa Whyte, his spouse ; erected by an afflicted mother who, in lamenting a beloved daughter, mourns also for a companion and a friend, cut off at the age of nineteen. She left a bright example of filial duty, of early piety, and of sweet resignation. She died 21st December, 1795.”

“Sacred to the memory of LOUISA ROUET of Auchendennan, the beloved wife of John Smollett Ronet, Esq., the last of her family : who, by grief for the loss of a lovely only child, while she yet deeply mourned for that of a beloved and only sister, afflictions under which she bowed with pious resignation, was torn, at the early age of twenty-two years, and in the bloom of her virtues, from an affectionate husband, and from a widowed mother who now mourns the last enduring tie of this life, but under the humble and consolatory hope of joining her family in the realms of bliss, to part no more.

Near the mother, who died May 23rd, 1797, lies her infant daughter, Louisa Smollett Ronet, who died Novr. 12th, 1796, aged xxiii. months.

Erected by her afflicted husband.”

“Sacred to the memory of the REV. FRANCIS RAINY ROUET of Auchendennan, who died March 7th, 1814, aged thirty-eight years. Deeply regretted by his relations and friends. With a pure and fervent devotion and integrity of mind, embellished with high attainments in literature and science, and enriched with every gentle virtue, he peculiarly displayed an unalterable affection to a beloved mother and sister, who would indeed feel his loss insupportable, had they not the high rewards which await his

piety, the richest and the most grateful consolation for the affliction under which they mourn."

"This tablet is erected by Miss Mary Rainey Rouet of Bel-Retiro, to the memory of her beloved mother, Mrs ELIZABETH SARAH RAINY ROUET, relict of Daniel Rainey, Esq. of Damully, Co. Down, Ireland. She died at Bel-Retiro, 23rd March, 1834, terminating a long existence of 82 years, loved and respected by all who knew her, and in humble confidence of a happy resurrection, thro' the redeeming merits of her Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Near this place are deposited the remains of her affectionate daughter, and last surviving child, Miss MARY RAINY ROUET of Bel-Ritiro, who was hastily summoned from time to eternity, the 6th day of May, 1841.

'In the 'midst of life we are in death.'"

Shortly after Miss Rouet's decease, the family property of Auchindennan or Bel-Retiro, came into the hands of Colonel Mure of Caldwell, and from him it was purchased by the late William Colquhoun, Rossdhu, who, after holding it for a short period of time, sold it to the departed William Campbell of Tullichewan, who in turn disposed of it to the late George Martin, whose family is still in possession of the small but valuable estate.

#### BUCHANANS AND FINDLAYS OF BOTURICH.

John Buchanan of Ardoch, the great grandfather of the present laird of Boturich, bought the lands of Little Boturich and Knockour (then Nokour) about the beginning of this century, from Mr Rainey Rouet of Auchendennan (then called Belretiro).

In 1811, he bought the Castle and Place of Boturich from Haldane of Gleneagles, to which family a fourth of the vast estates of the earldom of Lennox went in the fifteenth century. Another fourth went to the Napiers of Merchiston, and the remaining half became the property of Sir John Stewart of Darnley, to whom also went the title.

In 1808, John Buchanan had Balloch Castle built on the Balloch Estate, which was then his property. In 1830 he left Balloch and took up his residence at Levenside House (then owned by Campbell of Stonefield). In 1834, he began to build the House of Boturich on the walls of the old Castle. The laird of Ardoch died in 1839, and in 1843 his executors sold the Castle and Estate of Boturich to Mr Robert Findlay (Uncle of Mr R. E. Findlay), the eldest son of Mr Robert Findlay of Easterhill, and Mary Buchanan, daughter of Mr John Buchanan of Ardoch. Mr Robert Findlay died in 1850, and left Boturich to his father.

The present castle, although entirely built in 1834 (with the exception of some small additions), was little occupied until 1856, after which Mr R. E. Findlay's grandfather lived in it until 1862, when he died. He was succeeded in the estate by his eldest surviving son, John Findlay, then Major, afterwards Colonel in the Highland Borderers' Militia, and Colonel of the Dumbartonshire Volunteers. He was a handsome, soldierly-looking man of fine social qualities. Colonel Findlay, in 1872, sold the estate to his brother, Charles Bannatyne Findlay, father of the present laird. The Colonel died in 1887, and Charles, his brother, deceased in 1877, when Mr R. E. Findlay succeeded to the property. His mother, however, has continued to occupy the castle since the demise of her husband. That lady was third daughter of Colonel Elmsall of Woodlands, Yorkshire, her maiden name being Georgiana de Cardonnel.

The family of Findlay is of Ayrshire origin, but is also closely connected by descent on both the male and female sides with many old Dumbartonshire families, such as the Buchanans of that ilk, Lady Lilius Graham, sister of the great Marquis of Montrose, and through her with the Colquhouns of Luss, and Napiers of Kilmahew. There are also descents from the Napiers of Merchiston, Haldanes of Gleneagles, and the Darnley Stewarts.

Robert Elmsall Findlay, now laird of Boturich, was born in one of the Philippine Islands, 25th April, 1855.

Received his education at Harrow and Balliol College, Oxford. B.A., 1877; M.A., 1881. Married Jane Cecilia Louise, third daughter of James Scott, Woodside Place, Glasgow, 10th August, 1882, and has issue—Charles Bannatyne, born 18th October, 1883; Jane Cecilia Hope, born 9th November, 1885; Robert Scott, born 17th April, 1887, and George de Cardonnel Elmsall, born 20th August, 1889.

Mr Findlay is an East India Merchant, having his firms head office in Glasgow, and branches in Manila and Japan.

He is a J.P. for the County of Dumbarton, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest.

#### A. J. DENNISTOUN-BROWN OF BALLOCH CASTLE.

About the beginning of the present century the lands of Balloch, along with sundry contiguous portions of the barony of Haldane, were purchased from the Gleneagles family by John Buchanan of Ardoch, who erected on his newly acquired property an imposing castellated mansion on a commanding site overlooking Lochlomond. In 1830 the estate and castle of Balloch passed into the hands of Gibson Stott, who improved them very much. About 1845, the property again changed owners, and came into the possession of A. J. Dennistoun-Brown, J. P., only son of Major James Dennistoun-Brown, Madras Artillery. The laird of Balloch has recently deceased (1890), leaving a widow and four daughters, who still occupy the castle.

The modern castle overlooks the site of the ancient one in which the Earls of Lennox of old time held high festival, and entertained kings and mighty nobles. The old castle of Balloch reared its proud form from off a knoll near the edge of the loch, and was protected by a fosse. Early in the sixteenth century it was deserted by the family, who then took up their abode on the island

of Inchmurrin, it being a place of greater security, and described in deeds of that date as "the chief messuage of the earldom."

#### ALSTONS AND KIPPENS OF WESTERTON AND BALLAGAN.

I have been unable to ascertain the date when the late John Alston, Esq., of Westerton, became possessed of that estate, or whether he got it by heirship or purchase; but this I know for certain, that he acquired the lands of Ballagan on 1st July, 1790.

On February 18th, 1840, Mr Alston's grandson, John James Lyon Alston, then residing at Lubec, completed a title to this property by precept of Clare Constat from Sir James Colquhoun. Ballagan estate afterwards became the property of Mrs Marianne Alston or Kippen (wife of William Kippen of Busby), who died Jan. 22nd, 1853, aged 73. On her death, her second son, James Hill Kippen, succeeded to the property. When he died on Oct. 9, 1886, aged 66, his son, William James Kippen, Esq., advocate, Edinburgh, entered into possession of the estates, and still holds them.

#### EWINGS OF STRATHLEVEN.

This family, in regard to its Dumbartonshire connection, was founded by James Ewing, LL.D., one of the merchant princes of Glasgow. He was born at Glasgow on 5th December, 1775, being second son of Walter Ewing, Esq., a landed proprietor and West India merchant. His mother was a daughter of the Rev. James Fisher, one of the founders of the Secession Church. James Ewing was educated at the High School of his native city, and achieved as a pupil great distinction. In 1816, he was appointed convener of the committee which had charge of this institution. In 1822 he invested a sum of money, one half of the annual interest of which was to be spent in purchasing a silver medal for the student in the school who produced the best exemplification of the Greek verb. The other portion was to be spent in the purchase of books to form a library for the use of scholars.

When the elder Mr Ewing died in 1814, his son James was thirty-nine years of age, and a partner of his father's firm, but had up to that date held no public official position. However, on 10th October, 1815, he was elected by the Merchants' House to the dignified office of Lord Dean of Guild of the city of Glasgow. In 1817, he wrote and caused to be published a most creditable and well-written "History of the Merchants' House of Glasgow, from its origin, in 1605, down to the year 1816." In 1830 he was again elected Lord Dean of Guild. In 1831 Mr Ewing was appointed Lord Provost of the city of his nativity. In 1832 he was returned to the first Reformed Parliament as one of the city's two representatives. In 1836, James Ewing bought the estate of Levenside from Lord Stonefield, and he then also bought Dumbarton Moor and other contiguous lands, to the combined whole of which he gave the name of Strathleven. In December of same year he married Miss Crawford, of Port-Glasgow, who still survives.

After a long, useful, honourable life, James Ewing, LL.D., died on 29th November, 1853, in the 78th year of his age, and is buried in the Necropolis of Glasgow. He left many substantial benefactions to relatives, friends, and public institutions.

His nephew, Humphrey Ewing Crum-Ewing, born in 1802, succeeded his uncle in the estate of Strathleven (in which, however, his uncle's widow has a life-rent interest), but he did not reside on the property, his residence being at Ardencaple Castle, Helensburgh. He was created Lord-Lieutenant of Dumbartonshire on 23rd February, 1874. He died, much regretted, on 3rd July, 1887, and his son, Alexander Crum-Ewing, laird of Keppoch, is now fair of Strathleven, and Justice of Peace for, and Vice-Lieutenant of the county, Vice-Convener of the County Council, and altogether a most active, praise-worthy county gentleman, who does his best to keep untarnished the honour and esteem which for long has appertained to his family. He is now chief of the

house of James Ewing & Co., extensive West India proprietors, of which in turn his grand-uncle and his father were the heads.

Alexander Crum-Ewing married Jane, only daughter of Admiral Hayes O'Grady of Erinagh House, County Clare, and has issue—a son (Humphrey) and two daughters. Mr Crum-Ewing is Hon. Colonel of the 3rd Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers.

#### CAMPBELLS OF TULLICHEWAN.

The first Campbell of Tullichewan was William, a partner in the prosperous wholesale drapery house of Messrs J. & W. Campbell & Co., Glasgow. William Campbell was a grandson of James Campbell, Esq. of Ashentree, Perthshire, a cadet of the Melfort branch of the Argyll Campbells.

In 1843, after a long and successful business career, Mr Campbell purchased from Mr Horrocks the charming estate of Tullichewan, and also about the same period bought the contiguous properties of Auchendennan and Bromley, with the respective mansion houses thereof; the combined lands making a goodly domain. In 1864, the Auchendennan portion of it was sold by William Campbell to the late George Martin, a wealthy East India merchant; Mr Campbell receiving for it £23,000, being £50 more than double of what it had cost him originally.

The old laird of Tullichewan died in 1864, and his son James, now a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county, reigns in his stead.

The new laird was born on 31st March, 1823. He received a liberal education, such as might fit him for the proper discharge of the duties appertaining to a county gentleman of good estate, and a merchant of the first rank. In early manhood he was assumed as a partner in his father's firm. On 21st April, 1846, he married Janet, daughter of James Black, Esq. of Cross-Arthurlie, having issue—two sons and three daughters. One of the latter is married to General Gildea, Bromley, and another is wife of William Ewing Gilmour, Esq. of Croftengae.

Mr James Campbell is now, and has been for long, head of the eminent firm of J. & W. Campbell & Co., founded many years ago by his uncle, Sir James Campbell of Stracathro (sometime Lord Provost of Glasgow) and by his father, as co-partners; and under the management of its present painstaking, enterprising head it has lost none of its ancient prestige, but on the contrary stands in a more commanding position than ever.

The laird of Tullichewan has identified himself very closely with the movements in the city of Glasgow which have for their objects the refining and elevating of society. In the Vale of Leven, where he has long dwelt, he is a power for good.

#### LUMSDENS OF ARDEN.

Sir James Lumsden, in 1866, purchased the estate of Arden from Herbert Buchanan, and on it erected a spacious and elegant mansion. Sir James was eldest son of the deceased James Lumsden, Lord Provost of Glasgow, 1843-46, wholesale stationer, Glasgow. Born in 1808, he, in 1835, married Elizabeth, daughter of James Pinkerton, merchant, Glasgow, and had issue—three daughters and one son, James. Sir James received a University education in his native city, of which he was Lord Dean of Guild, 1861-62, and was afterwards, for several years, a member of the town Council. From 1866 to 1869 he was Lord Provost of Glasgow, and during his period of office he received the honour of Knighthood, on the occasion of the laying of the memorial stone of the Glasgow University by the Prince of Wales. He was from 1849, with two brief intervals, a member of the Board of Directors of the Glasgow and South Western Railway, and was for some years its chairman. He was a Deputy-Lieutenant of, and a Justice of Peace for Dumbartonshire and Lanarkshire, and J.P. for Renfrewshire.

After a brief illness, he died at his Glasgow house, 22nd March, 1879. He was a courteous gentleman of marked ability, and

Martin, in or about the year 1868, resuscitated the almost moribund Dumbartonshire Agricultural Society ; and after Mr Smollett's death he was for some years president of the same, and discharged the duties thereof most faithfully.

The subject of this sketch has for long been a J.P. for Dumbartonshire, and was a Commissioner of Supply for the county for nearly a quarter of a century under the old *regime*.

He has on many occasions represented the Presbytery of Dumbarton in the General Assembly of the "Auld Kirk," he being a Cardross elder.

Mr Martin is a Conservative, and has been actively engaged in every political contest or movement in the county for the last quarter of a century, the first election contest in which he took part being the celebrated one between Mr P. B. Smollett of Bonhill and Mr James Stirling of Cordale, in 1865.

John MacLellan Martin succeeded Alexander Smollett, in 1881, as Provincial Grand Master of the Free Masons in this Province, and he still holds the office, with credit to himself, and to the great benefit of the order.

Having disposed of the matters and persons relating to Bonhill, I would follow up the same by saying here a few words about one of the two parishes which have been cut out of Bonhill, namely that of

#### JAMESTOWN.

The village of that cognomen is in many respects quite a model one. In my youthhood the place was a very tiny one, and had quite a rustic look ; now it boasts long ranges of substantial two and three storeyed houses (of too uniform a style), tenanted by as well-conducted, intelligent, and thrifty operatives as can be found in the country.

The most of the house property of Jamestown has been erected by and is the property of Sir Archd. Orr Ewing, Bart., of Balli-

kinrain, M.P. for the County of Dumbarton, one of whose works—that of Levenfield—gives employment, directly or indirectly, to all the inhabitants of the place. While Sir Archibald has been eminently successful in business, and lives in a style commensurate with his leading position, yet that success has not rendered him callous or indifferent to the best interests of the band of honest workers who have helped him on to fortune. He has built for them a large hall accommodating four hundred people, having recreation and other rooms attached. The baronet bore half the cost of erecting the Parish Church, and the whole cost of the school buildings, all of which have been handed over to trustees for behoof of the parishioners.

In connection with this brief notice, I give a biographical sketch of the minister of the parish, and say a few words about his church.

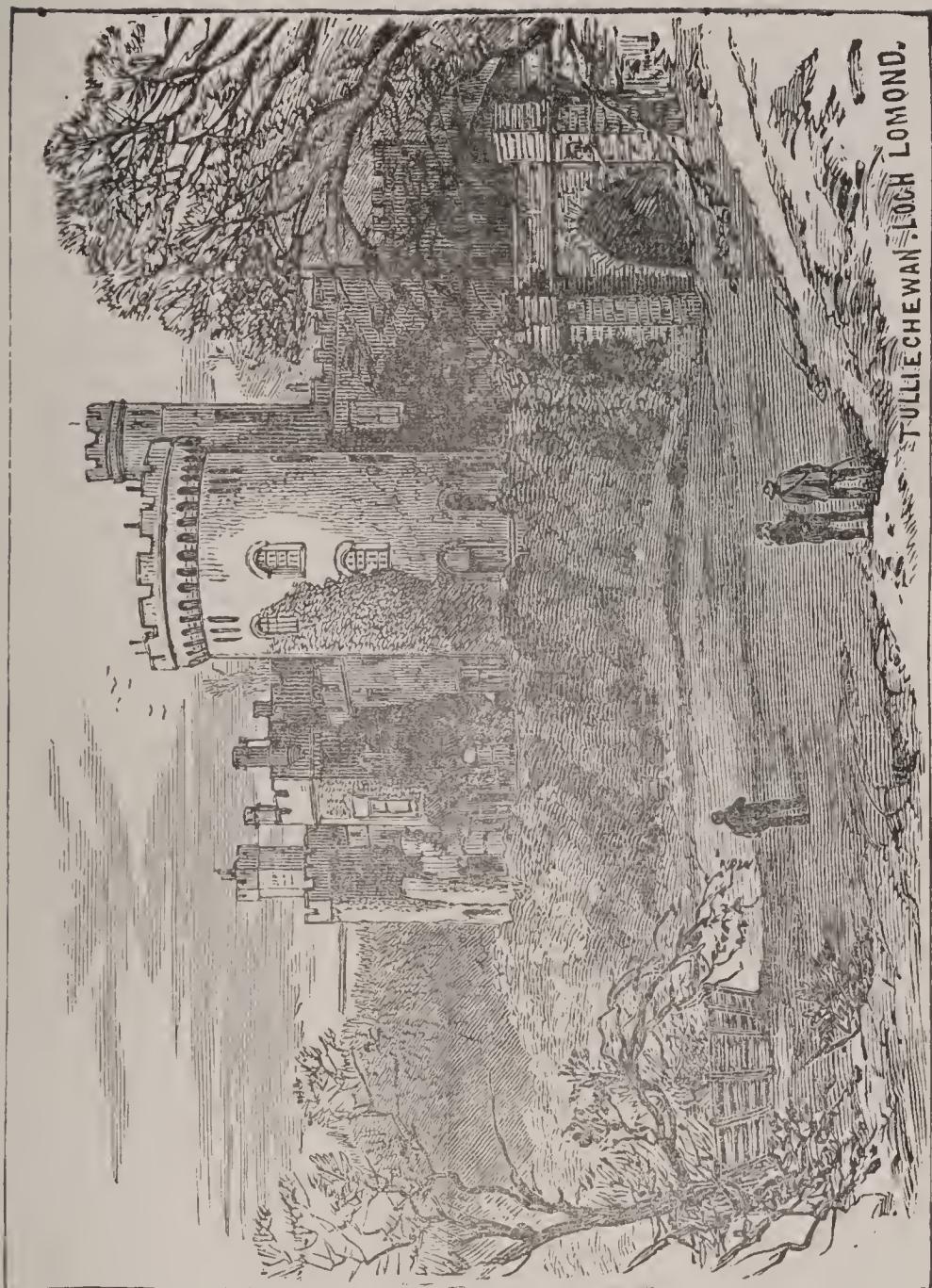
THE REV. D. J. MILLER, MINISTER OF JAMESTOWN,

was born June 9, 1855, at Eastfield, parish of Shotts, and comes of a well-known and highly respectable family, his ancestry, on both the paternal and maternal side, being traceable back to the days of the Covenanters. He received the elements of his education in the village school of Harthill, being the dux of the school, and retaining the affection and respect of his teacher, Mr James Thomson, till his death some years ago. After leaving this school (the family having come to Glasgow), Mr Miller was for two years under the care of a tutor, and entered the University of Glasgow as an Arts student about the close of 1868. Here he earnestly and successfully pursued his studies till the spring of 1875, taking an honourable place in all his classes, being a prize-man, and one of the best Hebrew scholars of his year. His Hebrew Professor, the late Dr Weir, showed the high appreciation which he had of Mr Miller's abilities by awarding him at the close of his studies a bursary which he had at his disposal to give to one of his

most distinguished students. As a student, Mr Miller enjoyed the almost unique position of never having been absent, even for a single hour, from any of his classes during his Arts-Divinity courses of seven years.

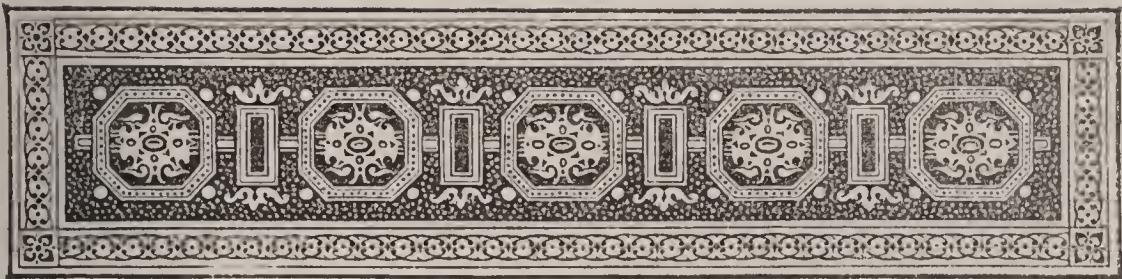
He was licensed by the Presbytery of Greenock on May 5, 1875, and, being regarded as one of the most promising young men of his time, had, a few days after license, the offer of three appointments—two city assistantships, and the oversight of a new charge that was being formed in the suburbs of Glasgow. Of these offers, he accepted the assistantship of St. Stephen's Parish, Glasgow, where he remained for over a year, making many friends, and giving great satisfaction by his pulpit and parochial ministrations.

He was ordained to Jamestown Parish Church (the first congregation before which he had appeared as a candidate) on Dec. 26, 1876, and owing to his very youthful appearance was frequently spoken of as "the boy preacher." His ministry in Jamestown has been singularly successful and able, as may be measured by the fact that in 1882 the congregation had increased so much that it was found necessary to enlarge the church (which was built in 1869, with accommodation for about eight hundred people) to the extent of about three hundred additional sittings. The church, with its recently-added organ and organ gallery, and handsome hall adjoining, forms possibly the finest set of ecclesiastical buildings in the county of Dumbarton.



TULLIECHEWAN: LOCH LOMOND.





## Chapter V.

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### KILMARNOCK AND BUCHANAN.

HERE has been much disputation over the derivation of the name of the parish of Kilmarnock, which neighbours that of Bonhill to the north. The most evident derivation, however, is Kil-ma-Ronach, the kirk or burying place of St. Ronach. Of his history little of a certain nature is known. An old well in the parish still bears his name, and in byegone times it was held in great veneration for the marvellous cures effected by its agency. Now, in this age of little faith, the virtue has clean gone out of it.

Prior to date 1324 there is no known record relating to this parish, which is situated at the extreme north-eastern portion of the county of Dumbarton. In the January of that year, King Robert Bruce granted the Church of Kilmarnock to the Abbey of Cambuskenneth (just as he did that of Dumbarton to Kilwinning). Prior to its transference to Cambuskenneth, the church is

supposed to have been a free parsonage in the gift of the Earls of Lennox. In addition to the old church in the north-east of the parish, there appears to have been a chapel at Shenagles, or “Old Kirk Ballagan.”

Including John de Lindsay, rector of the church in 1325, and the

REV. MR BOYD,

the present incumbent, twenty-eight successive ministers have held the living of Kilmarnock. The present church was built in 1813, and contains four hundred sittings. The manse was built in 1804, and has attached to it a glebe of seven imperial acres.

The parish minister of this date was born in the parish of Kinocardine, Ross-shire, and received the latter part of his education (with the exception of a year at St. Andrews), at King’s College, Aberdeen. He finished his Divinity course and was licensed in 1867. In the same year he was appointed missionary in charge of the Bridgegate Chapel, Glasgow, and in 1869 was ordained minister of the chapel, which was in 1871 erected into a parish church *quoad sacra*. In 1879 Mr Boyd was elected assistant and successor to the late Rev. W. B. S. Paterson. Mr Boyd in 1874 married Miss Agnes M’Culloch, Glasgow, and has surviving issue three children.

The other minister in the parish is the United Presbyterian one,

REV. JAMES DUNLOP.

A native of the parish of Riccarton, Ayrshire, he entered the University of Edinburgh in 1843 ; was licensed as a preacher by the U.P. Presbytery of Edinburgh on 1st of April, 1851 ; called to Kilmarnock on the 19th of August, and ordained minister of the congregation on 6th January, 1852. Was convener of the Committee of Synod that re-distributed the Presbyteries of Glasgow and Paisley and Greenock, one of the results of which was the erection of a Presbytery of Dumbarton, on the 10th of June,

1879. At its first meeting he was appointed Clerk of Presbytery; and still continues to fill the office. Mr Dunlop is the fifth minister of the congregation, which had its origin in an unpopular presentation of a minister to the church and parish of Kilmarnock in 1770.

#### THE LANDS OF KILMARNOCK.

In 1329 the lands of Kilmarnock were in the hands of Sir Malcolm Fleming, Sheriff of Dumbartonshire, for life, for the keeping of Dumbarton Castle. From the Fleming family, in the middle of the fourteenth century, the isle of Inchcalliache and lands of Kilmarnock passed into the hands of John Dennistoun of that ilk. In 1404, by marriage, these possessions became the property of Sir William Cunningham of Kilmaurs. In course of time the property was disposed of to the first Earl of Dundonald, and was erected into a barony in favour of William Cochran (brother of John, the second Earl), who feued out the most of it among small holders, long known in the parish as "Aber lairds;" and these "bonnet" lairds have given quite a distinctive character to the parish. In the ancient burying-place of the parish there lie many of these worthies, whose lives, did my arrangements admit of it, would "point a moral and adorn a tale."

The only antiquity I know of in the parish is the ruinous castle of Mains, which is of very ancient date. Over an arched window of the building there is still to be seen a lozenge-shaped shield, charged with a bend dexter, the bearing of the Dennistouns of that ilk, which would naturally lead one to the conclusion that it was erected ere the estate had passed out of their hands into those of the Glencairn family, with whom they were allied. This roofless, time-gnawed, lofty square keep, which wears a plume of trees upon its crest, is still an imposing object in the landscape. It appears to have been a battlemented building of five storeys in height. The Dundonald family, who succeeded the

Cunninghames in Kilmarnock, sold the Mains to an ancestor of Robert Macgowne, from whose sister it passed into the hands of Bruce Macadam.

At Catter, at the extreme north end of the parish, there was a stronghold erected by the Earls of Lennox.

#### BUCHANANS OF DRUMAKILL AND ROSS

About the middle of the fifteenth century, Patrick, eldest son of Sir Walter de Buchanan, and Isabel, daughter of Duke Murdoch of Albany, Governor of Scotland, by Isabel, Countess of Lennox in her own right, married Galbraith, heiress of Killearn, Bamore, and Auchenscoch. Their younger son, Thomas, was, in 1482, founder of the house of Drumakill, whence in the third generation sprang the celebrated George Bnchanan, of world-wide fame. In later days, one of Sir Walter Scott's colleagues at the clerks' table of the Court of Session was Hector MacDonald Buchanan, Esq., of Drumakill, proprietor of Ross Priory and adjoining lands, "a frank-hearted and generous gentleman," says Lockhart, Sir Walter's biographer and son-in-law, "and not the less acceptable to Scott for the Highland prejudices he inherited with the high blood of Clanranald ; at whose beautiful seat of Ross Priory, on the shores of Lochlomond, he was almost annually a visitor—a circumstance which has left many traces in the Waverly Novels." Buchanan, Sir Walter's friend, had nine sons and daughters, whose names are all inscribed on tablets of stone in a shady corner of the policies, where rest the Buchanans of Ross, and which, but for the gurgle of a passing burn and the carol of birds from their umbrageous bowers, would be a sad and silent place. Almost all the daughters are buried in this romantic God's Acre, but the sons' remains are scattered far and wide. One lies at Bombay, one at Gibralter, one at Malta, and one at Avignon. Long ago it seems that a MacGregor who had been injured by the Ross family laid his curse upon it, and, according to his predictions, there is no Buch-

anan in the direct line left ; but fair young maidens, beautiful as the morning, and brave young men, sons and daughters of Sir George H. Leith-Buchanan, Bart., still, through the female line, worthily represent the glory of the old family of Ross, in whose veins runs the blood royal of Scotland.

In life's early morn I, in company with two school companions, now, alas, no more, made a pilgrimage to Ross Priory. On our way we visited an uncle of theirs at Bonhill, who treated us to a tune or tunes upon an instrument he himself had made, but offered us nothing in the way of the food we so much stood in need of. Nothing daunted, we pressed on, and in due time reached Lochlomondside and Ross Priory. We entered the avenue, we walked under the deep shade of magnificent beech trees, spreading oaks, stately elms, feathery ashes, and tender limes. We saw the old house, which conjured up in our mind's eye visions of the days of *eld*—of monks and nuns, and the solemn sounds of praise and prayer. Around us lay a scene never to be effaced from momory's tablet. Before us, due north, rose Benlomond in all its majesty ; through a hollow to the left the “Cobbler” showed his rugged form ; right opposite us, across the bay, lay the pass of Balmaha ; and, somewhat to its right, Buchanan Castle, from off a spacious, fertile plain, reared its lofty head, embowered in woods ; while in the foreground and in the distance many isles of beauty begemmed the chrystral flood, forming a most beauteous, fascinating combination. We also stumbled across the old burying-place of the Buchanan family noticed above. O, but we were hungry wights when our sight-seeing was over. We had no money and no provisions, and as we wandered disconsolately along the banks of Lochlomond on our homeward journey to Dumbarton, a decent, sonsy married woman, in whom the milk of human kindness flowed freely, took pity on us in our low, lost, and almost ruined estate, and invited us into her modest, snod-kept cot, where anon she served us with routh o' tea, scones, and powans, for the love

of God. If that woman's spirit be disembodied, may it now be resting in Paradise. We were hungry, and she fed us ; we were thirsty, and she gave us to drink ; we were footsore and weary, and she gave us rest. After the lapse of between fifty and sixty years, that matron's form stands before my mind's eye radiant with all the Christian graces.

Having offered up this incense to the memory of a woman most worthy, and briefly sketched the history of the historic family of Buchanan of Ross, I will now give the history of one or two more of the leading families of Kilmarnock Parish ; and the next to be mentioned is that of the

#### MACKENZIES OF CALDARVAN.

This family has maintained a very close connection, down to the present, with the county town, Dumbarton, in which, for several generations, they carried on business, were property holders, and played a leading part. Robert MacKenzie, a worthy, prosperous, eighteenth-century burgess of Dumbarton, had a son also Robert, who was sheriff-clerk of the county, and in addition, was factor on Ardoch estate, Cardross, from 1773 to 1808. His country residence was at Clydebank, Cardross. The lands which lie adjacent thereto, viz. :—Ardoch, Lee, Clydebank, and Hawthornhill, were reclaimed by him from the surrounding waste, howling wilderness ; and having obtained leases of the same in 1789, he built farm steadings on them. His eminent success as a reclaimer of land induced Mr Graham, the proprietor of the Ardoch estate, to offer him, on easy terms, an improving lease of the two parks on which Dennystown, a part of Dumbarton, now stands. Those were then mere worthless quag-mires, but Mr MacKenzie, having drained and otherwise improved the fields, soon had them bearing luxuriant crops of wheat.

In 1802, he acquired part of the estate of Caldervan, Kilmarnock, from James Cunningham. On 18th April, 1815, he fell

asleep, and was, after a long, honourable, useful life, garnered into the God's Acre of Dumbarton, like a shock of corn fully ripe. His son, another Robert, succeeded him in the estate of Caldervan, and also in the lands of Priestyard and Broomfaul, Dumbarton. He was educated to the profession of writer, but never practised in it. After his father's death, he, in summer, resided at Caldervan, and in winter, in the family property immediately to the east of Heggie's Bnildings, High Street, Dumbarton.

He died 4th April, 1825 (and is also buried in Dumbarton), leaving three sons -- Robert Duncanson, now of Caldervan ; Walter, of Edinbarnet, Kilpatrick, chartered accountant, Glasgow, and Alexander Campbell, who died several years ago in Madras.

The present laird of Caldervan was born at Clydebank, Cardross, in August, 1812, and finished his education at the University of Glasgow, taking the degree of M.A., in 1830. He began, in Dumbarton, his business career as a writer, in the year 1836. Shortly thereafter, he accepted a business partnership in Glasgow, from which he retired in 1885, leaving his son partner in the eminent firm, the designation of which is MacKenzie, Gardner, & Alexander, writers, of which Mr R. D. MacKenzie had been for many years the senior partner.

In 1840 Mr Mackenzie re-built the mansion house of Caldervan, and in 1842 married his cousin Susan, daughter of Sheriff Alexander Campbell, laird of Barnhill, and had issue five daughters and two sons. Robert, now the only surviving son, in 1873 married Elizabeth Hill Beveridge, daughter of William Beveridge, Esq., of East Grange, Fifeshire, and has surviving issue two sons.

One of Mr R. D. Mackenzie's daughters was married to James Lumsden, Esq., of Arden, but she is dead.

R. D. Mackenzie, who is a Justice of Peace for Dumbartonshire, was, at the retirement of Mr Smollett of Bonhill, unanimously elected Convener of the County ; and, under the Local Government Act, was with hearty unanimity elected Chairman of

the County Council, and as such continues Convener of the County, as well as Convener of the Commissioners of Supply.

Notwithstanding his business engagements in Glasgow, he has, since 1842, resided at Caldervan, and has taken and still takes an active interest in all parochial as well as county matters. He has been chairman of all the successively elected School Boards of the parish of Kilmaronock ; and in his time the estate of Caldervan has been added to considerably in acreage, and has had its drainage and plantations greatly improved. Altogether, the laird of Caldervan is the type of man whom any county might feel proud to own as one of its leading members. Although almost an octogenarian, he possesses much of the push, go, and elasticity of early manhood, but beautifully tempered by the wisdom of age.

#### JOHN CUNNINGHAM-LENY OF GARTOCHARN.

This erstwhile well-known, kenspeckle, old-fashioned specimen of the Kilmaronock laird of the more *outre* type, was in the habit of visiting Dumbarton now and then for supplies, and these he almost invariably carried home in his hands or on his back, despising the aid of vehicular conveyances. On these state occasions he made his appearance in the county town got up in this wise—he was arrayed in a beaver hat of the chimney-pot style, a showy, blue swallow-tailed coat, and vest, with shiny gilt buttons, and having continuations in the shape of corduroy knee breeches and “rig-and-fur” stockings ; his “understandings” being encased in double-soled Blucher boots. The laird was a wealthy man, therefore it could not be said of him, what was said of some of the lesser landed proprietors of the district, that “their tenants were rougher o’ siller than the lairds themselves.” It was always currently reported that laird Cunningham had, along with large money and considerable lands, heired a quantity of silver plate, and kept the same for safety in a “tatie” bag under the bed he

slept in. The laird also gained some notoriety by growing a crop of potatoes on the roof of one of his outhouses.

This owner and tiller of the soil was a confirmed bachelor, and was not by any means lavish in his expenditure of cash. He died about a score of years ago. His nephews possess his erstwhile inheritance.

JAMES GALBRAITH OF BLAIRENNICH,

eldest son of William Galbraith, who farmed the lands of Cambusmoon for twenty years, was born on January 1st, 1819. In early manhood, he was engaged in commercial pursuits in the city of Glasgow. In 1842, he bought the estate of Blairennich from the Ross priory family. These lands, which lie between the Ross and Caldervan properties, are, for situation and surroundings, highly attractive, and are within easy reach of the shores of Lochlomond. Since the estate came into his possession, the laird has evidently and successfully cultivated his own acres, as well as those of Townfoot, which he rents.

Laird Galbraith takes upon himself a fair share of the public work which usually devolves upon gentlemen of his standing. He is a Justice of Peace and a Commissioner of Supply for the county, and also a member of the Kilmarnock School Board, and to the due and proper discharge of the duties connected therewith he gives careful heed.

Before passing on to treat of matters appertaining to the parish of Buchanan, I would say a few words in regard to the Kilmarnock laird of the old school. He, as a rule, dearly lo'ed a dram, and his favourite howff was the "Gowk Inn," a roadside pub. between Balloch and Gartocharn, now devoted to the administering to the public of teetotal beverages and other innocent solid and liquid compounds. In this erstwhile temple of Bacchus many a heavy drinking bout took place. These led up, in all probability, to several of the lairdships falling, through the impoverish-

ment of the owners, into the hands of burgessess of Dumbarton. Robert MacKenzie got Caldervan, George Lang, Cambusmoon, and Robert Colquhoun, Spittal.

## BUCHANAN.

When the kirk of Inchcalliach was allowed to go into decay, in the middle of the 17th century, the private chapel of Buchanan came to be used as the parish church, and from that circumstance, shortly thereafter, the name of the parish got changed from what it was to what it is.

When the old chapel was razed, a new church was erected about 1770. The right of sepulture in it, which the Buchanans of that ilk had held for many generations, was reserved for not only them but for two branches of the family, Auchmar and Spittal.

As a matter of course, the change in regard to the situation of the kirk of the parish gradually led to a change in regard to the place where the deceased parishioners were interred. The average mortal, when his race is o'er, desireth to be laid nigh to the sacred edifice where prayer is wont to be made, and where the offering of praise stealeth softly o'er his resting place, as if these and the murmurous voice of the pastor expounding "the Word" "could sooth the dull, cold ear of death."

The ground covered by the well-kept, tasteful little kirk, and that embraced in the kirkyard of Buchanan, is, I should opine, under an acre in extent. The place of prayer has one gallery, and it is set apart for the use of the Montrose family, the members of which, when living at the castle, worship with most commendable regularity in the kirk of the parish, thus showing a good example to the humbler parishioners. I may be allowed to state that the service of praise (as well as the other services) is very good. It is led by a harmonium, and a choir composed of school children.

The ground in front of the sacred edifice is beautified exceed-

ingly with lime trees and arborvitae. The other portions of the God's Acre are given up to the dominion of the nettle and docken, as is the rule in most country kirkyards.

The church of Buchanan, which stands about three miles from Lochlomond, and one-and-a-half mile from Buchanan Castle, was repaired in 1828, and a few years ago it again received a very complete overhaul. It has sittings for 300 people. The present incumbent of the parish is the

REV. DR. MACKINTOSH,

who was ordained to the charge in 1848. He officiates twice a year at Rowardennan, and once at Inversnaid.

This parish, which lieth immediately to the north of that of Kilmarnock, is very sparsely populated.

The minister of the parish was born at Leven, in Fife, in 1821. Educated at the High School of Edinburgh, and afterwards at St. Andrew's University, where he graduated M.A. in 1839. Licensed in 1845, by Presbytery of Kirkcaldy. Appointed assistant at Whittinghame; ordained to the parish of Buchanan in 1848. In 1876, he received the degree of D.D. from St. Andrew's University.

Dr MacKintosh is one of the most cultured and polished ministers of the Church of Scotland, and he is imbued with a large measure of modesty and amiability. From his quiet retreat, he has sent forth certain pamphlets and essays of great merit. He was also one of the contributors to "Scotch Sermons," which volume in its time stirred Scotland to its centre, on account of the ripe scholarship and literary excellence which it displayed, and the supposed heterodox flavour which pervaded portions of it.

The reverend doctor's right hand man in the execution of the parochial work appertaining to his sacred office was, for a long series of years, the gentleman whose biography I proceed to give.

## CHARLES MACPHIE, PARISH SCHOOLMASTER.

This most exemplary man and model teacher was born at Balfour, 31st December, 1813, and died at Buchanan, 29th November, 1890. He, by dint of perseverance, naturally good talent, and propriety of conduct, triumphed over difficulties, and rose from a comparatively humble and uninfluential position to one of considerable distinction. After spending his youthhood in study, he, in early manhood, became a remarkably successful educator, and kind friend of the young who were entrusted to his charge in the parish school of Buchanan, to which he was appointed upwards of forty years ago.

Mr M'Phie's heart was in his work, and he, with the valuable aid and warm encouragement of Dr and Mrs MacKintosh, made the school of Buchanan famous. In addition to the usual branches of education, the pupils without distinction were taught in it music and dancing, and probably there is not a parish in Scotland which can shew a better record of education, conducted on simple, useful, and painstaking lines. In the work of the school, the Duke and Duchess of Montrose also took a lively interest, and the examinations and annual concerts at the school-room were graced by their presence, as well as by that of many cultured, influential people from all the surrounding district. When Mr M'Phie had reached the patriarchal term of seventy-seven years, he died, leaving behind him a wife, two sons, several daughters, a host of loving friends, and not one enemy. He was buried in the auld kirkyard of Buchanan. His remains were consigned to the grave in presence of a numerous assemblage, who felt deeply that the district was the poorer by the withdrawal from its midst of the venerated teacher, elder of the kirk, and registrar of the parish. Charles M'Phie was unusually happy in his family and friendships. He enjoyed a well spent life, and in faith continually looked forward to a happy eternity. Blessed are those who thus live and thus die,

Opposite the western door of the kirk of Buchanan, there is the now

#### BURYING PLACE OF THE DUCAL FAMILY OF MONTROSE.

In its vault lie the remains of the Marquis of Graham, who caught typhoid fever at Rome, and died from its effects in England on 3rd April, 1872, aged twenty-five years. He was interred here at his own request, under a tree in the wood which fringes the last resting-place of the dead parishioners. This spot has been consecrated, and has been to a certain extent brought into connection with the parish burying-ground ; but the Montrose tomb is shut off from it by an ornamental iron railing. The deceased Marquis was much beloved by all who knew him, and his death was widely deplored. Over his mortal remains there has been placed an enclosed, flat, white marble stone of memorial, raised a foot or so above the ground, which has on it this inscription :—“This memorial is erected by his sorrowing parents to the memory of their son, James, Marquis of Graham, born, 22nd June, 1847 ; died 3rd April, 1872. He died in the bright morning of life, in peaceful and firm reliance in his eternal salvation through the mercy of his Heavenly Father. Almighty God, give to his afflicted family the peace which Thou alone can give.” From the head of the sarcophagus there rises an ornamental white marble cross, emblematic of the bright, cheering belief, that those who sleep 'neath its shade sleep well.

It may be interesting for my readers to know that the former burying-place of the Montrose family was at Aber-ruthven, near Auchterarder.

Almost the only other tombstones of any importance in the Kirkyard of Buchanan are one “Erected to the memory of the Rev. William Freeland, ordained minister of this parish ; died Nov. 5, 1847, aged 72 years ;” and another which marks the burying-place of the Auchmar Buchanans.

## OTHER PLACES OF SEPULTURE.

I now go on to make mention of all the places of sepulture within the bounds of the parish.

In all, there are five of these, of which three are now entirely disused. 1, there is the common burying ground beside the church (just described); 2, Inch Calliach (which receives notice further on); 3, near Buchanan Castle there is a circle of stones, and a hollowed stone or font which seems to have occupied the centre, and that is believed to have at one time been the burying place of the Buchanan family of that ilk; but the tradition is somewhat uncertain. 4, there is an unenclosed burying ground near the old garrison at Inversnaid, and one of the stones in it bore the name of the wife of one of the officers; but the name is now effaced and forgotten. 5, there is a small walled-in space near Strone Macnair, in Glendhu, at the back of Benlomond, which was used by a family of Grahams, who up to about forty-five years ago, when they sold the property to the late Duke of Montrose, retained a right to burial there; but they never seem to have used their right.

Further up the Glen, there are said to be marks of another burying place, but even tradition whispers nothing further regarding it than what is stated above.

I now go on to describe the most famous of all the aforementioned places of sepulture, namely, that of

## INCH CALLIACH

(which meaneth Isle of Old Women), a very ancient place of burial.

This fair isle, which belongs to the Duke of Montrose, is seven furlongs in length, and nearly three-and-a-half furlongs in breadth. It lieth about a stone-cast off the pier of Balmaha, on the eastern bank of Lochlomond, and is accessible by aid of a row or other small boat. For beauty of form or for rich apparelling it is surpassed by no other isle on Lochlomond, nor by any other isle

on any other loch, as far as my knowledge or judgment goes. It is altogether a stately isle. At its richly wooded south-eastern extremity it shoots up with its crest of pines I would say one hundred feet sheer out of the pellucid waters of the lake. The isle, as it trendeth westward and northward from this coign of vantage, assumes a less majestic form ; but, taken as a whole, it is as lovely as a dream of Paradise. I have gazed upon it at all seasons of the ever-varying year, and can heartily declare that in all these changes it ever disclosed some hitherto undreamt-of charm. In late Autumn, when the many varieties of trees which here have their *habitat* assume their gorgeous robes—dyed yellow, red, brown, and scarlet by the fingers of the departing year—and the bright sunbeams gild and the wanton winds play with their tresses, while the tiny, playful wavelets leap up in music round their rocky fastness, then any one with an eye in his head and a brain behind it must confess that Inchcalliach is surpassingly lovely.

On its summit in the days of old there was a nunnery ; and on that isle, from hoar antiquity down to about the middle of the seventeenth century, there stood the kirk of the parish, which was then named Inchcalliach, and not Buchanan, as it is at present. The place of burial in connection with these holy houses is still held in reverence, and betimes the death-barge conveyeth to its hallowed soil the earthly remains of some grim MacGregor, Buchanan, Graham, or Mitchell, there to sleep their long sleep, life's battle o'er.

Can we wonder that a place so fraught with sacred memories has been the theme of the poet's lay ? No, verily ; had it been otherwise, one would have marvelled thereat mightily. In a *Chambers' Journal* of recent date, Wallace Bruce thus writes of the beauteous isle, the burial-place of Clan-Alpine, resembling, from Rossdhu, a reclining body with folded arms :

No more Clan-Alpine's pibroch wakes  
 Loch Lomond's hills and waters blue ;  
 "Hail to the Chief" no longer breaks  
 The quiet sleep of Roderick Dhu :  
 Enwrapped in peace the islands gleam  
 Like emerald gems in sapphire set,  
 And far away, as in a dream,  
 Float purple fields, where heroes met.

Inch-Cailliae—*island of the blest* !  
 Columba's daughter, passing fair,  
 With folded arms upon her breast,  
 Rests soft in sunset radiance there ;  
 A vision sweet of fond Elaine,  
 And floating barge of Camelot,  
 Upon her brow no trace of pain,  
 And on her heart "forget me not."

Forget thee, saintly guardian ? Nay,  
 From distant lands across the sea  
 To this lone isle I fondly stray,  
 With song and garland fresh for thee ;  
 I trace the old inscriptions dear,  
 Fast fading now from mortal ken,  
 And through the silvered lichens peer  
 To read MacAlpine's name again.

My mother's name a sacred link,  
 Which binds me to the storied past ;  
 A rainbow bridge from brink to brink,  
 Which spans with light the centuries vast.  
 Two hundreds years Clan-Alpine's pine  
 Has struck its roots in other lands ;  
 My pulses thrill to trace the sign  
 And touch the cross with reverent hands.

All ruin here !—the shrine is dust,  
 The chapel wall a shapeless mound ;  
 But nature guards with loving trust,  
 And ivy twines her tendrils round

The humble slab, more fitting far  
 Than gilded dome for Seotia's line ;  
 The open sky and northern star,  
 Beeome the chieftains of the pine.

The light streams out from fair Rossdhu  
 Across the golden-tinted wave ;  
 That crumblng keep, that aneient yew,  
 Still mark a worthy foeman's grave ;  
 But warm the hearts that now await  
 Our coming at the open door,  
 With love and friendship at the gate,  
 And beaeon-lights along the shore.

Dear Seotia ! evermore more dear  
 To loyal sons in every land ;  
 Strong in a race that knew not fear,  
 And for man's freedom dared to stand ;  
 Ay, dearer for thy songs that float  
 Like thistle-down o'er land and sea,  
 And strike the universal note  
 Of love, and faith, and liberty.

Sir Walter Scott, in "The Lady of the Lake," speaks thus of the component parts of the fiery cross sent round by Rhoderick Dhu to summon his clan to battle :

"The shafts and limbs were rods of yew,  
 Whose fellows in Inch-Calliael wave  
 Their shadows o'er Clan Alpine's grave,  
 And, answering Lomond's breezes deep,  
 Soothe many a chieftain's endless sleep."

One of these chieftains was a MacGregor who died at Craig-Croston in 1693. His tombstone is rudely adorned with the arms of his family, the honour of his house, and the period of his death.

A few years ago the body of Duncan Graham was buried in this ancient place of sepulture. For long time Duncan was the Duke of Montrose's deer keeper on Inchmurrin, and a well-known character, who took the liberty of selling an unlicensed dram in

his domicile, which I have “preed,” and declare to have been an honest tipple, in spite of Her Majesty the Queen not sharing in the profits of his trading.

More recently, the remains of a young man named MacGregor (a son of the keeper of the deer on Inchmurrin) were laid to rest within the bosom of this isle most hallowed. He was a member of a celebrated rowing crew of MacGregors who showed great pluck and endurance in many a hot contest. And it is not many months since the body of a Mr Mitchell was brought from one of the Hebrid isles to the God’s Acre of Inchcalliach for interment. The deceased was doubtless a member of the family of the Mitchells of Blairvochie, several generations of whom are buried in the sacred isle.

The graveyard is surrounded by a low, ruinous wall of about a foot-and-a-half in height, where, among other things not so delectable, sweet wild roses blow. The place of graves contains a considerable number of flat and upright memorial stones, many of which are of very ancient and a few of modern date. The older ones are adorned with cross bones and skulls—if such hideous things may be termed an ornament; and the newer ones are of a plainer description. The place of burial is over-run with nettles, dockens, bramble bushes, tangled grass, and other things which love to batten on the dead. I do not know that that state of matters need produce any great regret, as to my thinking there would be something incongruous in a visitor to this sequestered spot coming upon anything approaching a garden cemetery in appearance.

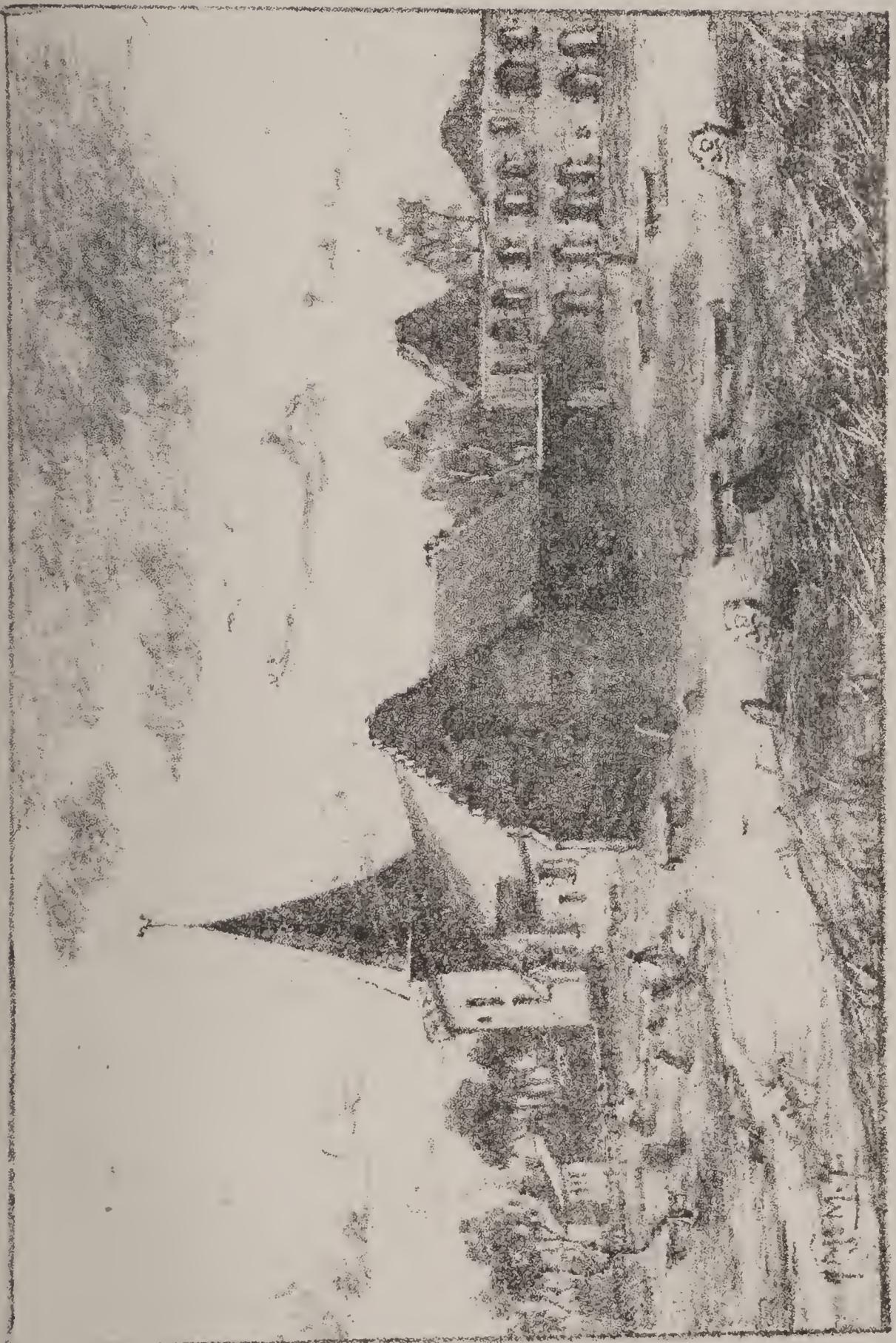
Having placed before you, my reader, the general memorabilia of the parish, I will now submit to you brief sketches of its historic families.

In regard to the history of the family of

BUCHANANS OF THAT ILK,

of which Auchmar was a branch, and a member of which, in 1636,

DUMBARTON OLD PARISH CHURCH AND BUCHANAN ALMS' HOUSE.





erected an alms-house or hospital at Dumbarton and endowed it with £1021, it can of a verity be said it is of a very ancient and honourable lineage. The reputed founder of the Buchanans was Anselan, son of O'Kyan, King of Ulster, in Ireland, who landed with a few followers on the west coast of Scotland, near the Lennox country, about the year 1016, and in that territory took root and flourished. The name of Buchanan is territorial, and was only assumed by the family at a subsequent period. Anselan, seventh laird of Buchanan, seneschal to Malcolm, first Earl of Levenax (Lennox), and two of his sons, Gilbert and Methilan, witnessed a charter granted by the earl to Gilmore, son of Maoldonich, of the lands of Luss, in the reign of Alexander the Second. In 1225, this same Anselan obtained from the same earl a charter of a small island in Lochlomond called Clareinch, the name of which island afterwards became the rallying cry of the Buchanans. Anselan had three sons—Methilan, ancestor of the M'Millans; Colman, ancestor of the MacColmans; and his successor, Gilbert or Gillebrid, who appears to have borne the surname of Buchanan. There is a charter of confirmation of that of Clareinch, and some of the lands of Buchanan, granted in favour of this Gilbert by King Alexander the Second in 1231. After an eventful, heroic career, becoming connected through marriage with several noble families, and founding several distinguished houses, such as Auchmar, Spittal, Leny, Drumakill, and others, the principal line of the family became extinct on the death of John, last laird of Buchanan, in 1682. His estate was shortly thereafter sold by his creditors, and bought by the ducal family of Montrose. The representation of the Buchanan family at that date devolved upon the Buchanans of Auchmar, who in their turn became extinct in 1816. One or more members of this family is or are buried in the Ramshorn Churchyard, Glasgow. The late Dr. Francis Hamilton-Buchanan of Bardowie, Spittal, and Leny, as heir male of Walter, first of the family of Spittal, established in 1826 his claim as chief

of the clan, and in his family it rests still.

The next historical family to receive a notice at my hands is that of

#### THE DUCAL HOUSE OF MONTROSE.

which is one of high antiquity and distinguished fame. Its founder in Scotland was the Anglo-Norman knight, Sir William de Graham, who came to Scotland in the reign of David the First, from whom he received the lands of Abercorn and Dalkeith. The knight had two sons, Peter and John, in whom the direct line was carried on. In the time of William the Lion the family obtained the lands of Charlton and Barrowfield, as well as the lordship of Kinnabar, all in Forfarshire ; and this was the first connection of the family with the district in which the lands of “auld Montross” are situated, whence they subsequently derived their ducal title. In war and in peace the family made itself felt as a powerful factor in the state, occupying, as members of it did in several reigns, prominent positions as soldiers, statesmen, and administrators. Sir John de Graham in Wallace’s time did notable service in the cause of defending his country’s liberties ; and the race has earned for itself, by prowess in the field, the proud title of the “Gallant Grahams.” Sir David Graham, in Bruce’s reign, was one of his most valiant and trusted supporters in camp, field of fight, and at council board. In 1451 the family was ennobled, its then chief, Patrick Graham, being created Lord Graham. William, third Lord Graham, in 1504-5 was created Earl of Montrose by James the Fourth. In the fulness of time (1612) there sprang from the illustrious house “the most honourable James, Marquesse of Montrose, Earl of Kincardine, &c., and General Governor for His Majesty in the Kingdome of Scotland in the years 1644, '45, and '46.” Immediately before the first of these dates Montrose sided with the Covenanters. He then, to their disgust and to the joy of the Royalists, sided with the crown, and

wrought great havoc amongst his former friends on many a battle field. He is looked upon by one set of men as an apostate whose memory is of an ill odour, and by another as the pink of knightly perfection, whose memory ought to be held in reverence by all loyal citizens. His troops having been defeated in 1650 at Corbiedale, Ross-shire, when invading the kingdom in the interests of his master, he fled into the wilds of Assynt, where he was captured, nearly starved to death, and delivered up to General Leslie, by whom he was brought to Edinburgh. He was there tried as a traitor to the Covenant, and condemned to death. He was executed 21st May, 1650. His demeanour in his last moments was very noble and dignified, leading one to the conclusion that he at all events was at peace with God and his own conscience.

In an old work which I hold on Montrose's wars in Scotland, of date about two hundred and fifty years ago, I found the following lines composed by him upon the death of King Charles the First :

“Great ! Good ! and Just ! Could I but rate  
 My griefs, and thy too rigid fate,  
 I'd weep the world to such a strain  
 As it should deluge once again,  
 But since thy loud-tongu'd blood demands supplies  
 More from Briarus' hands than Argus' eyes,  
 I'le sing thy obsequies with trumpet sounds,  
 And write thy epitaph with blood and wounds.

MONTROSE.

Written with the point of his sword.”

The Marquis's estates were confiscated, but they were restored to his son James (styled the Good), third marquis, who died 25th April, 1684. He had a son James, fourth marquis, who became first Duke of Montrose, to which dignity he was advanced on 24th April, 1707. This holder of the title and estates of the family was not only the means of promoting the titular importance of the house, but was instrumental in making great additions to the family property by purchasing, in 1702, from the Duke of

Lennox, his estate in the Lennox country, as well as many of its jurisdictions—among the number of which were the hereditary Sheriffdom of Dumbarton, the custodianship of Dumbarton Castle, and the jurisdiction of the regality of the Lennox. Duke James, after an honourable, useful life, died in London, 7th January, 1742. His immediate successor was Duke William, who died 23rd September, 1790. When the Heritable Jurisdiction Abolition Act of 1747 was passed, this holder of the title received as compensation for the hereditary offices withdrawn from him, the sum of £5,578 18s 4d. Next in the line of succession was another Duke James, who died December 30, 1836. He was followed by yet another of the same name and title, who was born in 1799, and died at Cannes (where he is buried), 30th December, 1874. This duke was a most capable man, who took a deep interest in local as well as in Imperial affairs. At his demise, his eldest surviving son, Douglas Beresford Malise Ronald, K.T., became fifth duke. His Grace is Lord-Register of Scotland, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Stirling, &c. He was born November 7th, 1852. Married a few years ago Miss Graham of Netherby, and by her has issue. Her Grace is the good genius of the locality, more especially in the way of ministering to the wants of sick children, for whom she has been chiefly instrumental in erecting and equipping a sanatorium at Balmaha.

#### THE MONTROSE HOLIDAY HOME.

was formally opened on Saturday, 2nd May, 1891, in presence of a goodly company, who were invited by the Duke and Duchess of Montrose to witness the ceremony. The proceedings were opened with prayer, offered by the minister of the parish, Rev. Dr. Mackintosh.

The building is in the Gothic style of architecture, stands within its own grounds, is two storeys in height, is finished in a neat but plain style, and commands a charming stretch of the

loch. The home contains on the ground floor a large play-room, with dining-room adjoining, so arranged that these apartments can be converted into one if needs be. There are also on the same floor the matron's parlour, maid's room, kitchen, bath-room, and other accommodation ; while from the play-room access is obtained to a large play-shed. The upper portion of the edifice yields dormitory accommodation for thirty children, arranged in four apartments, besides the matron's bed-room, and a small room containing two cribs, which, if required, can be used for special cases, or for a sick-room. Behind the main building there are sundry out-houses.

At the opening, there were in the home eleven girls and four boys enjoying its benefits. Interesting addresses were given on that occasion by Lord Provost Muir, of Glasgow, Professor Story, D.D., and J. C. White, Esq., of Overtoun. At the close of the proceedings the Duchess of Montrose thanked the ladies and gentlemen present for having come to take part in the opening ceremony of the Montrose Holiday Home for poor children ; and, on the motion of the Duke of Montrose, the Lord Provost was thanked for presiding.

The home has been opened free of debt. It is intended that it be kept open all the year round with the exception of the months of January and February ; and it is arranged that the children be provided with clothing while in the institution.

To her grace of Montrose the greatest credit is due for this addition to the number of institutes which have for their object the amelioration of the condition of poor and afflicted children.

The only other family of which I pen anything in this connection is that of

#### ROB ROY MACGREGOR OF INVERSNAID.

In the reign of William III. the direct male line of the chiefs of the ancient, purely Celtic MacGregor sept became extinct, and the representation fell, by "a formal renunciation of the chiefship,"

into the Glengyle branch of the family, of which Rob Roy was a member and his nephew the chief. His own designation was that of Inversnaid, but he seems to have acquired a right to the property of Craig-Royston, a domain of rock, heath, and forest, situated on the upper part of the east side of Lochlomond.

Rob Roy, like many other Highland gentlemen, was a cattle dealer, and to further his business he had borrowed several sums of money from his near neighbour the Duke of Montrose ; and, becoming insolvent in 1712 through heavy losses, he absconded, and was involved in prosecutions which nearly ruined him. During his absence, messengers of the law visited his house and shamefully abused his wife, branding her on the breast with a red hot poker ; and she, being a high-spirited woman, incited her husband, on his return, to acts of vengeance. At the same time she gave vent to her feelings in a fine piece of pipe music, still well known by the name of “Rob Roy’s Lament.” A nephew of the duke, it is reported, was leader of the aggressors. At this period the duke contrived to get possession of Craig-Royston, rendering Rob landless, and inciting him to become the “bold outlaw” of song and story. For nearly thirty years—that is, till almost the day of his death—he levied contributions from Montrose and his tenants, swearing that as his grace had robbed him of his lands, and his minions had maltreated his wife, he would live at his expense, and neither want for siller, meal, maut, nor beef, as long as these could be obtained by force of his strong right arm from the estates of his enemy.

In 1715, Rob Roy, at the head of the sept of Ciar Mohr, to which he belonged, took up arms for the “Chevalier ;” but his adherence to him was half-hearted, and at the battle of Sheriffmuir he played a somewhat equivocal part—one of masterly inactivity,

“ For he never advanced  
From the place where he stanced  
Till nae mair was to do there at a’, man.”

Notwithstanding the sort of neutrality practised by Rob Roy during the progress of the rebellion of 1715, he did not escape punishment. He was included in the Act of attainder, and the house in Breadalbane which was his place of retreat was burned by General Lord Cadogan. But upon going with about fifty of his followers to Inveraray, Rob obtained favour by surrendering his own arms and those of "his tail" to Colonel Patrick Campbell of Finnah, who in return furnished Rob with letters of protection under his hand. Being thus in great measure secured from the resentment of the Government, Rob Roy MacGregor established his residence at Craig-Royston, Lochlomond, in the midst of his own kinsmen, and resumed once more his private, inextinguishable quarrel with the Duke of Montrose.

For some years he continued to levy black-mail from those whose cattle and estates he protected, and harassed sorely the duke and his dependants; and although an English garrison was stationed at Inversnaid fort to overawe, check, or capture him, his address and courage saved him from ever falling into their hands save once, and then he made a speedy escape.

The far-famed Rob Roy MacGregor was confessedly the best swordsman of his day. His celebrity for wielding the claymore excited Macneil of Barra to visit him for the express purpose of trying his prowess. Barra was a gentleman possessing the qualities that endear a chief to his clan, with the accomplishments which confer acceptability in polished circles. On arriving at Rob Roy's house the Macneil chieftain found he was at Buchanan attending a market, and thither he repaired. He met several gentlemen on horseback on their way home, and, accosting the nearest, begged to know if Rob Roy was still at the fair.

"Who enquires for Rob Roy?" asked a voice, more remote.

"Macneil of Barra," said the chief.

Rob Roy approached, announcing himself; and after exchanging salutes, Barra said—

“I have heard Rob Roy extolled as the best swordsman of our times, and I have come a long journey to prove whether he or I deserve that commendation.”

“Chieftain of Barra,” said Rob Roy, “I never sought a quarrel with any man ; and if it please you to think yourself the better swordsman, I have no objection to your opinion.

“This is the language of fear,” said Barra.

“Who dares to speak of fear to Rob Roy MacGregor?” said MacGregor. “Dismount, sir, and try if I’m afraid.”

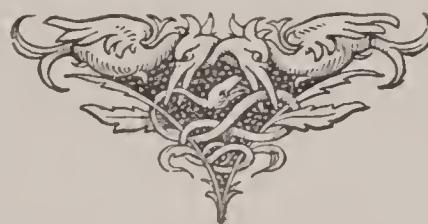
The chivalrous encounter immediately commenced, and Rob Roy found Barra nearly his match ; but after much dexterous play, he wounded the chieftain in the sword arm, so that he was several months confined to Buchanan.

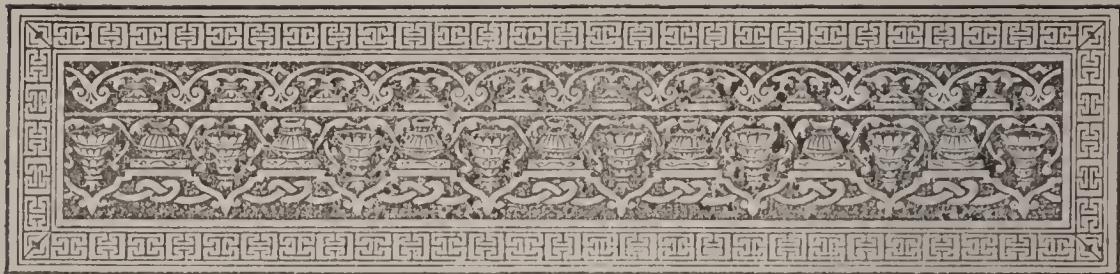
The substance of what immediately follows appeared recently in the *Glasgow Herald* newspaper. The matter is very interesting on account of the light it throws on Rob Roy’s latter days, and also for the notice it gives of the hero’s lineal descendants.

“Robert MacGregor, after a busy and exciting life, died like a decent man with his affairs in order, owing no man anything, and with a balance on the credit side. The date of his death has long been a doubtful point, but the Testament clears this up. Gregor MacGregor, a great grandson, who lived in Hill Street, Garnethill, Glasgow, in 1870, in some notes which the writer has seen, stated that his ancestor died at Innerlocharigbeg, about six miles to the west of the Parish Church of Balquhidder, on the 28th day of December, 1734, in the 64th year of his age, he having been born on the 11th day of March, 1671. On this point Rob’s descendant did not agree with the majority of writers, who placed the date of birth about 1660, a difference of about eleven years. All those writers agree that Rob Roy was an old man at the time of his death ; but no Highlander who led such an active and healthy life as he did could be considered an old man at 64. In January, 1703, he had married Maria (Mary) MacGregor of Comar.

Of his recent descendants, the most noteworthy was Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor, an eminent Indian soldier, and Asiatic gazetteer, who died at Cairo, and who was buried at Glengyle some years ago under circumstances that are still fresh in the memory of many readers.

The undoubted representative of Rob Roy at the present time is Norman Macgregor, only surviving brother of Sir Charles M. MacGregor, who is a member of Lloyd's, London. Norman and Sir Charles are fifth in direct descent from Rob Roy, thus—Rob Roy was the father of Coll ; Coll was the father of John, a captain in the 60th Regiment of foot, now known as the King's Royal Rifle Corps ; John was the father of James, Major-General in the Hon. East India Company's service ; James was the father of Robert Guthrie, major in the Bengal Artillery, whose sons were the late Sir Charles Macgregor and Norman M'Gregor, as above noted. One thing about Sir Charles was his strong personal resemblance to his great ancestor, particularly in that “wond'rous length and strength of arm” celebrated by the poet.





## Chapter XX.

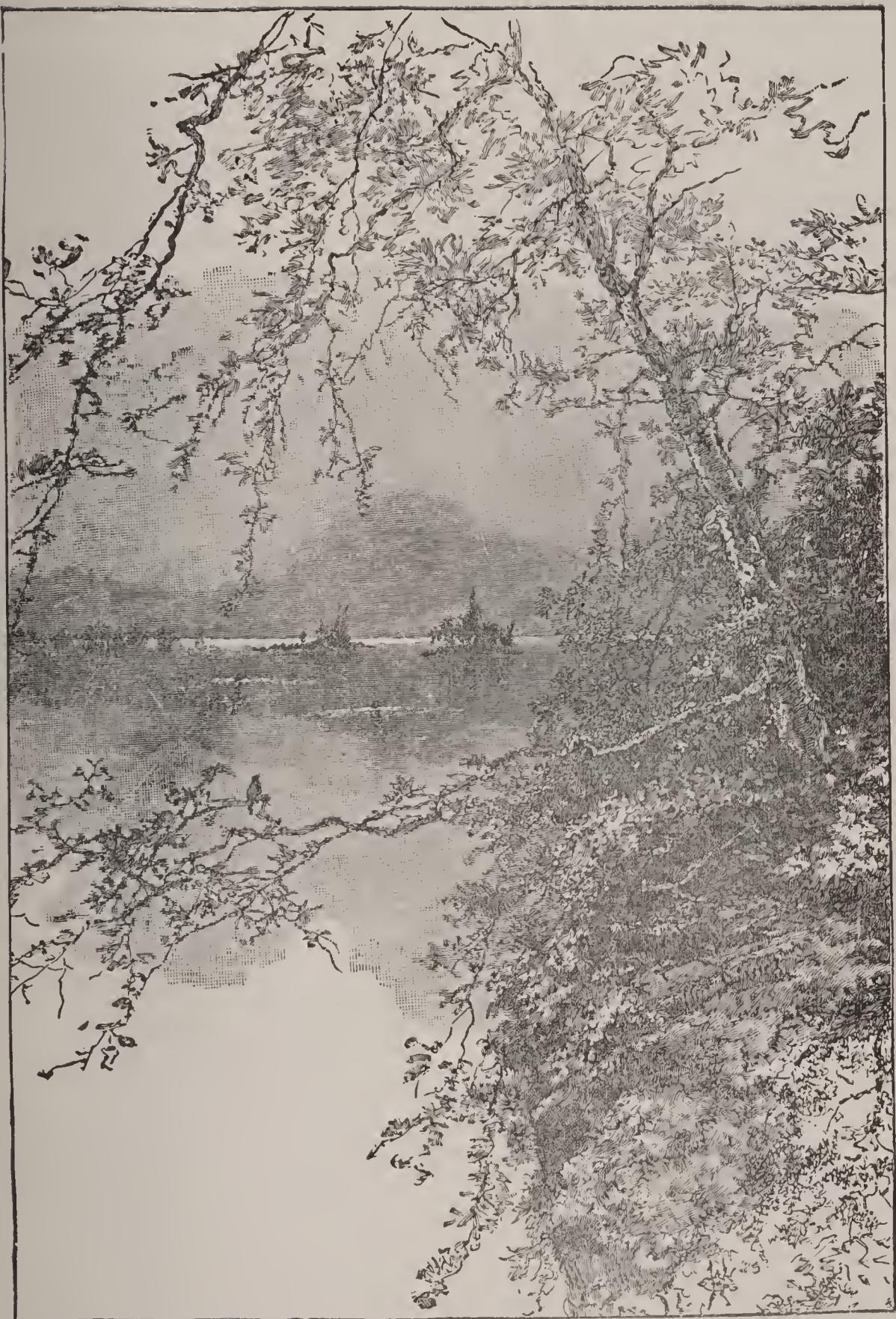
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### LUSS AND ARROCHAR.

**L**IUGH the fascinating margin of the Queen of Scottish Lakes, and where her ample bosom is bedecked with multitudinous isles, beautiful of form and richly apparelled, the kirk and kirk-yard of the parish are situated, on a wooded promontory a little to the south of the Pier of Luss. The background of the fair scene is composed of verdant, fertile, bosky meadows and fields, which are dominated by richly-wooded hills of majestic mould, cut up by mountain-born streams, and diversified by far-withdrawing glens.

In the God's Acre of Luss there lie all that is mortal of many people whose lives are well worth recording, and rescuing from oblivion.

It is centuries many since this spot of ground was solemnly set apart for the worship of God and the burial of the dead. Authentic history states that, about the middle of the thirteenth



NEAR LUSS, LOCHLOMOND.



century, Maldorven, the third Earl of Lennox, confirmed the patronage of the living to Maldorven, Dean of Lennox, and also to his son Gillemore. At that time it appears to have been an independent rectory. Since that far-distant period, twenty-seven ministers (including the present incumbent) in succession have with more or less fidelity looked after the spiritual interests of the parishioners, and reaped the fruits of the benefice. For well nigh six hundred years,

#### LUSS KIRK AND ITS ADJACENT GRAVEYARD

have been used for the purposes for which they were set apart, so that one feels as if he stood there on specially holy ground, constraining him to think, if not to utter, "How awful is this place." The church which immediately preceded the present one (erected a few years ago by the present Sir James Colquhoun, Bart.), was a plain small edifice, of date 1771 ; it had, however, some good architectural features, which are described further on.

From the Reformation period down to about the end of the second decade of this century, the great bulk of us Scotch people seemed to have lost all taste in regard to the style of house to raise to the honour and glory of God, wherein He might be worshipped acceptably and with godly fear. The churches built during that long period were, as a rule, hideously ugly, and the services of God's house bald in the extreme. The worshippers, for the most part, paid no more outward reverence to the place where prayer was wont to be made than they would do to a change house, wherein they went to take a dram.

The surrounding churchyards, during that long time, were almost invariably given up to the dominion of the rankest of grass and vile weeds of every description.

Now, thank God, we have come to a better frame of mind in regard to our mode of worship, the condition of the burial places of our dead, and the style of buildings we erect to the honour and

glory of God. These are in this era not only holy but beautiful houses, which make you feel as you stand within their hallowed courts that they are none other than houses of God, and veritable gates of heaven.

My opinion is, that in this age, on the whole, we, in the good providence of the Almighty, are in a happier condition than any of our fathers were in since the apple-eating episode in the Adamic period "when Auld Clootie gie'd this infant world a shog maist ruined a'."

This short divergence over, I now hark back on matters appertaining to Luss Kirk and kirkyard.

Tradition affirms that, so early as the sixth century, Luss was the seat of a Christian church. A cairn of stones, about a-mile-and-a-half south of the village, and known as Carn-ma-Cheasoig, is pointed out as the place of the martyrdom of Saint Kessog or MacKessog, the tutelary saint of the parish. This event is said to have taken place A.D. 520. The Saint is supposed to have been buried in the churchyard of Luss; but there is no document relating to the church there of a date earlier than the thirteenth century, though there can be no doubt that it was in existence many years prior to that period.

Another tradition has it that St. Kessock was the Patron Saint of Scotland before St. Andrew was adopted as such. St. Kessock having been martyred in a foreign land, his body was embalmed in sweet herbs and brought for interment to the church of his native place. The herbs (*L-u-s* in Gaelic) germinated, and gave name to the parish. King Robert Bruce granted to the Kirk of Luss (1313) a sanctuary girth of three miles.

At Rosshdu, the residence of the Chief of Colquhoun, a chapel was founded so early as 1107. A portion of the sacred building still remains, and is used as the family burying place. Within it is a rude effigy, said to be of Saint Kessog.

In the Glen of Luss, near Glenmollochan, an earth-covered ruin was long popularly known as “The Chapel.” On breaking into it some years ago, for stones with which to build a farm steading in the neighbourhood, an arched vault, with narrow lancet openings, was discovered, and within were found a font, cross, and other ecclesiastical garniture. The late Sir James Colquhoun, with commendable veneration, enclosed the site of the ancient “Chapel” of St. Michael’s, of date end of 16th century, with an iron railing, the effect of which is not unlike that of a railed-in burial-place, and this is in nowise lessened by the “head-stone”-like memorial stone, which on its one side bears an inscription in Gaelic, and on its other a translation into Latin. There is a tradition that this glen was at one time a place of considerable population. I append a translation of the inscription which is on the stone:—

#### ST. MICHAEL’S CHAPEL.

JAMES, Laird of Colquhoun and Luss, caused this monument to be erected to the memory of a bye-gone piety, and of those psalms formerly sung to the honour of God (in this place), now, alas, completely dilapidated.

In Luss churchyard there is a slight remain of an ancient ecclesiastical structure, and I have seen taken from recently dug graves richly moulded bases of pillars of the early English period of Gothic architecture. Perhaps the style of these architectural relics may be accounted for by the fact that “the parish, previous to the Reformation, was a rectory, and between 1429 and that epoch was a prebend of the Cathedral of Glasgew.” “A chapel, subordinate to the parish church, anciently stood on the lands of Buchanan.” “There are in the churchyard several stone coffins of considerable antiquity. Each consists of one stone with a stone cover. There is no inscription upon any of them,” nor, so far as I am aware, have they any tradition.

The writer of a book entitled “Characteristics of Old Church Architecture, etc., in the Mainland and Western Islands of Scot-

land" (Edinburgh : Edmonstone & Douglas, 1861), says :— "Sometimes these lids of stone coffins (which, however, when found lying about by themselves, may in some instances have been merely grave-stones), are of curved or semi-elliptical shape, and carved with a sort of squamous ornament in horizontal lines, each overlapping the other, as at Abercorn, Luss, Govan on the Clyde, and until lately, Aldcamus in Berwickshire."

The churchyard, like most others in the country of great age, contains many old-fashioned grave-stones "with uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture deck'd"; but the majority of these possess no general interest except for their age, style of design, and inscription. Several others—of date perhaps more than half-a-century ago—must have been somewhat costly; they are in good taste, and the inscriptions are in excellently designed and executed "script." Others are merely a slab of slate from the neighbouring quarries, polished on the surface, with the letters cut by some native "genius," with as "native" an instrument.

There is one monument for which a visitor will not fail to look, and which, from its peculiar design, he will have little difficulty in finding :—

In memory of JOHN STUART, D.D.F.R.S., born in Killin 1743; successively minister of Arroquhar, Weem, and Luss, whose genuine piety and amiable temper endeared him to his family and flock; while his profound and varied knowledge, devoted to the noble object of translating the Holy Scriptures into his native language (Gaelic) under the sanction of the Church of Scotland, gained for him universal respect. His useful life was closed by a peaceful death, May 24, 1821. *Filius moereus hoc patri carissimo momememtum posuit.*

Dr. Stuart was otherwise distinguished than as a translator—more especially as a botanist; and under the thatched roof of the manse noteworthy tourists and others were frequently entertained with a simple but unfeigned hospitality.

Dr. Stuart's son, Joseph, became minister of Kingarth. Over his grave there was planted a *silex Stuarti*, so called from having

been discovered by his father. A daughter was married to the late Captain Brown of the Loch Lomond steamboats.

“The celebrated John MacLaurin, known generally in connection only with his subsequent ministry in Glasgow,” was also a minister of Luss.

The tombstone, however, which in Luss Church-yard will receive the chief attention of the antiquary, is one said to be in memory of a Baroness MacAuslan—a lady whose husband distinguished himself at the seige of Tournay. She having died in France, her body was brought to Scotland, and buried in Luss Churchyard. In accordance with the fashion of the period, her coffin was strewn with flowers, and particularly with the *fleur-de-lys*—some of which grew to the surface of her grave, and became miraculously efficacious in staying a pestilence then raging throughout the country.” From this special flower some have derived the name “Luss;” others from the Gaelic *L-u-s*, signifying a plant. This stone (at least that much of it which is above ground) may be briefly described as a recumbent monolith of a “sowbackit” outline, the sides chased rather than carved with an arcade of interlacing Norman arches, and the ridge with a sort of squamous ornament, both of which, it is said, were at one time inlaid with gilding. This stone is specially mentioned in a standard work on ancient Scottish monuments, and a very fine water-colour drawing was made of it by the late A. D. Robertson, of Glasgow.

The MacAuslaus still bury in this portion of the churchyard, and the family, a sept of Buchanan, has been otherwise associated with Luss; as, for instance, “the only daughter of the late Baron MacAuslan, after the death of her husband, selling her interest to Sir Humphrey Colquhoun, Bart., of Luss, her superior; and the ancestors of the principal families of MacAuslan in the counties of Tyrone, Derry, and Down in Ireland, going out of the parish of Luss to that kingdom in the latter part of the reign of James VI.”

“Glen Luce in Wigtownshire derives its name from *Vallus*

*lucis*, the valley of light," a derivation which may be equally well applied to Luss upon Loch Lomond, either in conformity with its physical peculiarities—a valley laying its bosom fully open to the play of the day-beams, or in harmony with the results which attended the teachings of the early Christian missionaries. Another translation of *L-u-s* is a hero.

Within the last few years, while a grave was being dug, a Gothic cross, four or five feet in height, was discovered. It now stands against the ruin of the old church—in which ruin I ought to mention there is an old slab inscribed to the memory of some long since deceased clergyman or schoolmaster.

Near to this ruin—which is close by Dr. Stuart's monument—Sir James Colquhoun erected a little cenotaph in memory of his father, and those who with him were drowned in returning from deer shooting in Inch Lonaig.

Some of the old inscriptions are, as might be expected, somewhat quaint in their mode of spelling and expressing ; and a few of those of fully fifty years ago are remarkable for their propriety and elegance of diction ; there are, however, not many “epitaphs of impressing individuality, nevertheless the following four lines had a place (and praise) in an article on tombstone inscriptions which not long ago appeared in a London magazine :—

Could he disclose, who rests below,  
The things beyond the grave that lie,  
We more should learn than now we know,  
But know no better how to die.

The burial place of John Walker, the local poet, is covered by a “bowster stane” of polished slate, into which are cut these verses on the death of a favourite child :—

'Twas when the primrose hail'd the infant year,  
When all was eye, and all was list'ning ear,  
My sweet rosebud reclined his weary head,  
And here he lies among the silent dead.

Uneertain life, how transient is thy show !  
 How high thy projects, and thy end how low !  
 This day in health, a country's pride and boast—  
 Perhaps to-morrow mingling with the dust.

Ge domhain doreh an leabd 'nuaigh  
 Na bitheadh gruaim air ereidmheach beo ;  
 Tha 'n lá ã teahd an toirear buaidh,  
 'Scha mhaslaieh truailleachd sinn nis mò.

*(Thus translated.)*

Tho' dark and dismal is the grave,  
 Let faith dispel the gloom ;  
 We yet shall vanquish all our foes,  
 And triumph o'er the tomb.

John Walker was survived by a daughter, Mary, who is also interred in Luss kirkyard. She was a remarkable woman. She devoured literature, and to some good purpose. She had a capital memory, a vigorous understanding, and great lucidity of speech, which enabled her to convey to others her knowledge and thoughts. I believe she read the whole of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

John Walker, who farmed the hill of Camstradden, Luss, was author of “Poems in English, Scotch, and Gaelic, on various subjects ;” published by Mr Ogle, Glasgow, in 1817. The poet had an intimate knowledge of the Gaelic language, and he assisted greatly the Rev. Dr Stuart, minister of Luss, in translating the Bible into that tongue, much of the work being done in the home of the poet. Sir David Wilkie, the eminent painter, often visited “The Hill,” and one of his finest works, comprising a baby in a cradle, and a collie dog watching it, was painted there. John Walker’s poems were composed at intervals during thirty years, and show considerable diversity in character and merit.

I do not know if it be peculiar to Luss, to country, to Highland, or to old churchyards, it is nevertheless worthy of observation, those of one name or clan having their burying-place in one

particular corner ; thus in Luss, the Colquhouns and Grants bury to the east of the church, the Walkers to the south, the MacAus-lans and the MacLellans to the west. It may have resulted possibly from the original family, or from that “clannishness” which in the Scots may be a ruling passion even in death.

Almost all north of the church appears to be of a comparatively recent date. In beauty it is vastly inferior to the eastern, and especially the southern parts. Than this latter there can scarcely be a more beautiful last resting-place, realising to the letter the description of the poet :—

“ Beneath this yew . . . .  
 It is a lovely spot ! The sultry sun,  
 From his meridian height, endeavours vainly  
 To pierce the shadowy foliage, while the zephyr  
 Comes wafting gently o'er the rippling stream.  
 ’Tis a nook  
 Most pleasant. Such a one perchance, did Gray  
 Frequent, as with a vagrant muse he wanton’d.”

This “nook most pleasant” may be prosaically described as rising by a pretty steep grass-grown bank from the river Luss, and guarded, so to speak, by a number of magnificent elms and lindens — shading from the sun and shielding from the storm—with a solitary yew advancing towards the church. Seen from the lake or the glebe, the church and this noble screen of trees form one of the most attractive features in a landscape which for varied beauty can be rarely rivalled.

The “holy bell,” by which many have “been knolled to church,” and many to their last narrow homes, was rung and swung in one of those circling trees until about thirty years ago, when it was removed to the less romantic and “auld warl,” but perhaps more appropriate position, the church’s belfry. It was wont to be jocularly said, in an adjoining parish, that “on Sabbath the Luss kirk bell never commenced to ring until Sir James’ carriage

was in sight." This was doubtless true, but the reason is a very commonplace one—the remarkable punctually of Sir James, although there are some folks nearer home who were sometimes wicked enough to attach to the fact a very different, but, I believe, wholly groundless signification.

Inch-do-Mhannach ("the Monk's Island), about a mile from Luss, is said to have been the place of residence of Saint Kessog, and on it, some years ago, several stones of ancient workmanship were discovered, probably the fragment of a monastery or other religious edifice. I have been told that at an early period a bell was suspended on Tom-nan-clag (the height of bells), the highest eminence on the island, which, being rung, summoned to divine service the adjacent parishes of Luss, Inch-Cailleach, and Kilmaronock. The name Tom-nan-clag certainly supports the tradition."

Although Auchenheglish (the field of the church) is not in Luss parish, perhaps it may be mentioned that at one time there were there a kirk and kirkyard, in which kirkyard there is said to have been at least one interment from Luss. Over the ruins of the kirk, in many fathoms deep, and at a considerable distance from the main land, buried in Lochlomond, a "perch" or cross, made of iron, has been erected. When the present mansion was being built, about five-and-twenty years ago, one entire stone coffin, and the remains of four or five bodies in separate graves, but with no indication of coffins of wood or stone, were discovered. At that time there could be traced the remains of a turf dyke enclosing the graveyard. These particulars were got from Mr Hodston, of the Office of Public Works, Glasgow, who was clerk of works at the building of Auchenheglish house. Mr Hodston tells that while there a very old man informed him of a funeral to this old burying-ground of an uncoffined body from Luss, which was carried on a door.

As has been already stated a few pages back, the church of Luss immediately prior to the present one was built in 1771,

and had accommodation for about five hundred worshippers. Mostly all guide-books that I have seen speak of it as being "excellent in its masonry;" but it was more: in its elevation towards the south—and, strange to say, where it was best seen—it had even architectural character. Its plan was oblong, with an "aisle" towards the north projecting at a right angle. Opposite to this "aisle," as it was called, was the pulpit, and in the upper part of it was the Colquhoun of Luss "gallery." On the right of the pulpit was the Camstraddan gallery, and on the left the Bannachra. (When the church was built there were three heritors in the parish—the lairds of Luss, Camstraddan, and Bannachra; now there are two—of Luss and Bannachra.) The "Luss" gallery occupied the whole area of the aisle, and was reached by an outside stair. In front was a row of old-fashioned chairs, and behind there must have been some accommodation for semi-circling the fireside, to which the gallery's occupants retired, at least during the sermon. In front of this gallery was hung three hatchments, and on each side of the wall on the same plane with it, two, of members of the Luss family; while beneath the Camstraddan gallery was a marble monument in the wall of some member of the Colquhouns of Camstraddan. In front of the pulpit, and beneath the "table" seats, were two inscribed slabs, monuments of ministers long since departed. These are now to be seen outside the walls of the present church. On the external face of one of the walls of the old church was a rudely sculptured memorial stone of the "Lairds of Arrochwar," with a skull, cross-bones, hour-glass, and pick and shovel on it, and bearing date, 1612. The church within was plain, but comfortable.

The new church, built a few years ago by the present chief of Colquhoun, as a memorial to his father, who lost his life in Dec., 1875, while returning from Inch-Lonaig, is of Gothic architecture, is somewhat ornate, and is suggestive of being a model of a larger

and more imposing edifice. The church is adorned by several stained glass windows, inserted by the heritors, the minister, the congregation, and others. The new building has given opportunity for an innovation--the plate at the kirk door. In the old, the "collection" was made by "the ladle," Sir James's dole excepted, which was dropped into a special plate placed upon a step about midway up his outside stair. The "ladle," which seemed strange to the casual visitor, has become the instrument of collecting in "fashionable" town churches. Another thing that caught the attention of strangers was the special prayer for the family of Colquhoun. With one minister it was in this wise:—"Bless this parish and congregation, from the family which in the wise arrangements of Thy providence Thou hast placed at the head of it, to the very poorest individual;" with one of his successors—"the family of chief distinction, and Thy servant, the head thereof."

The church-yard has been new-trimmed, several pretentious tombstones have been erected, and consequently there is less for the lover of the picturesque and the indulger of the sentimental. It is enclosed by a handsome wall, in which are two lychgates—one towards the north, the other towards the west—specialities hitherto uncommon in Scottish kirkyards. On each is an appropriate passage of Scripture.

The circumstances of "the preachings" were presumably much the same in Luss down to fully fifty years ago as they were in other country churches. On "the Sacraument" Sabbath a collection plate, covered with white linen, stood, with an elder beside it, on each side of the churchyard gateway. The sacrament was dispensed at a succession of "tables"—the tables extending the whole length of the church—the "elements" being bestowed by the officiating clergyman right and left from the centre, in front of the pulpit. While the communicants were entering and leaving the table-seats the hundred-and-third psalm was sung to the tune of

Coleshill, “ the line ” being “ read ” by the precentor in a sort of monotonous chant, as simple as it was solemn. The “ Sacrament ” was then dispensed only once a year, in summer, and through the open doors was heard the gentle ripple of the leaves, causing them to cast flickering and fitful shadows upon the walls, like those brief cloudlets of the world that sometimes partially overshadow even the Christian’s home ; and the soft, low gurgling of the stream rolling onward to the ocean, like the passing to eternity, ever generation after generation, of those whose last narrow homes it sweeps past as unheedingly as does the living world without, that lives as carelessly as if it were to live for ever. Also occasionally would be heard the distant singing of the psalms by those who were engaged in open-air worship, or, as it was popularly called, the “ tent preaching ”—the minister occupying a sort of covered rostrum, and his listeners sitting chiefly on the “ bowster stanes.” Many ministers were required at a country sacrament at that time —one, perhaps two, to preach on the “ Fast ” day ; one on Saturday, the “ preparation ” day ; several to “ serve ” the succession of tables ; one to preach on Sabbath evening, and another on Monday, the “ thanksgiving ” day ; and as these were generally the clergymen of the neighbouring parishes, and as the churches of those who officiated on Sabbath were necessarily closed, many of their congregations as necessarily followed them, and so increased the congregation that gathered about “ the tent.” Members of families came great distances to be *at home* at the Sacrament time, and they also added to the number. Although not on sacramental occasions, Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Candlish preached in Luss. Until Dr Stuart’s death, a Gaelic sermon was regularly preached in Luss Parish Church.

Two or three years ago, an article appeared in (I think) the *Cornhill Magazine* on Highland Funerals, and the first custom mentioned was that of Luss. I regret that I did not copy the article. Invitation to a funeral was given in this fashion :—

Say, two of the more intelligent boys of the village, or other parts of the parish, as the case might be, went from house to house and cried at the door, “Warning here to attend the funeral of A. B., on Thursday first, at twelve o’clock” (as name and times might be). Of course, each boy had his defined district. In short distances, the coffin was generally borne on “spokes,” in longer, sometimes on a cart, but is now commonly on a hearse. Occasionally, however, the coffin was carried a long distance on spokes, and followed by a walking procession, the effect of which was solemn and impressive. A few years ago there was a funeral in which the chief mourner walked in front of the carried coffin. At the time of which I write, the church bell was begun to be rung when the funeral procession came in sight. It is now tolled. At the present time, the funeral service is sometimes in the open air. Formerly, and till very recent date, part of the service was a service of “funeral biscuit” and wine, with, sometimes, whisky ; and it was customary for the grave-digger, immediately after the grave had been filled up and covered, to invite the company to one or other of the inns, to partake of somewhat similar hospitality. Funeral parties brought by boat are not common ; there is one, however, about which there is a special interest, that of old Robert Colquhoun, Sir James Colquhoun’s deer-keeper in Inch Lonaig. The late Sir James is supposed to have written the following paragraph :—In May, 1843, “died on this island, in the house in which he was born, nearly a century before, Robert Colquhoun. When seven years old, he was taken into the service of Sir James and Lady Helen Colquhoun, and for the last few years of his life, it used to be his proudest boast, that he had served four of the chieftains of Colquhoun, his fealty descending unimpaired from sire to son. When the suns and snows of seventy years had rendered him less able for active duty, he requested to be allowed to end his days in the rugged and romantic island of his birth. The funeral of the old man, sublime in

its very simplicity, was truly characteristic of himself—the little fleet of boats, all abreast, keeping solemn time with their oars on their way to the village of Luss, where, surrounded by the mountains he so often climbed, quietly reposes this faithful servant of the chiefs of Colquhoun.” The late chief, with a no less peculiar respect for the worthy character of the venerable deer-keeper than an exercise of feudal privilege, laid his head in the grave.

I am not aware of the lych-gates ever having been used for their legitimate purpose. At the last funeral which I heard of there, which was three or four years ago, there was a short religious service at the grave, but this practice is, I believe, not general. At the time of the “resurrectionists,” there was a tent—an ugly square building—placed at the churchyard gate, in which, night-about, parishioners, two in number, kept watch, and which eyesore was retained in its place long after there was any necessity for it. In 1834, there was some suspicion that a body had been illegally exhumed, but, upon examination, it was found that the suspicion was unfounded.

To give my readers an idea regarding the cost of and the customs observable at funerals sixty-five years ago, I submit the following, copied from documents in the hands of a public functionary in Dumbarton:—Received from A—— L——, £1 10s, being the price of the coffin of G—— B——, deceased. To funeral charges at Renton for J—— B——, whisky, four bottles, 12s; rum, two bottles, 7s; wine, four bottles, and half-mutchkin, 12s 3d—in all, £1 11s 3d. The above was incurred at coffining and funeral. The sum of 5s was paid to one Walter M’Allaster, for conveying the corps to Luss for interment. The funeral charges incurred at Luss, the place of sepulture, were—bread, 2s; whisky, 14s—16s in all, reminding one of Jack Falstaff’s “but one half-penny-worth of bread to this intolerable deal of sack.” A Robert M’Farlane, church officer of Luss, receipts an account for the grave-digging, 2s 6d; mort-cloth, 7s; journey to Renton

with the same, 3s ; for lifting the gravestone, 2s—14s 6d in all. The sum disbursed over the head of the burying of the deceased party, who only left sufficient effects to barely pay the burial expenses, was the sum of £4 11s 9d, of which there was disbursed for refreshments—principally whisky—£2 7s 3d.

Having finished my story of the kirk and kirkyard of Luss, I will relate what I know of its notable people and historic families. As has been my wont, precedence is given to the clergy.

THE REV. DUNCAN CAMPBELL,

minister of Luss, was born in Edinburgh, in 1821, and took his Course of Arts and Divinity at its University. He was licensed by the Presbytery of the same city, in 1835 ; was ordained minister of Fossway and Tullichbole in 1846, and inducted minister of Luss Parish in the year 1852. During his—almost forty five years—ministry in the parish, he has been a power for good in diverse ways, and has secured the entire confidence of the parishioners.

The only other minister of the Gospel in the parish is the

REV. THOMAS E. JUBB, F.C. MINISTER.

This divine was born at Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, in 1854. When he was nine years of age, his parents removed to Glasgow, where he was educated, first at a private academy, and afterwards at the High School. Mr Jubb studied and graduated at the University of Glasgow, and proceeded in due course to the Church College. On receiving license in 1882, he acted for some months as *locum tenens* in the West Free Church, Rothesay, after which he became assistant to the late Rev. David Purves, Maxwelltown, Dumfries. On the retirement of the Rev. Neil Stewart in October, 1883, he was ordained minister of Luss Free Church, where his services are highly appreciated by an attached people. The church, which is beautifully situated on the loch side, was

completely renovated and partially endowed by the late William Colquhoun, Esq., Rossdhu.

#### LORD ORMIDALE.

This eminent man (Robert M'Farlane) was born near Luss at the beginning of this century. His father was a farmer on the estate of Sir James Colquhoun, Bart. Mr Macfarlane's apprenticeship to the law was served in the office of the late Mr James Greig of Eccles, W.S., a well-known and highly distinguished Edinburgh conveyancer. Robert Macfarlane, who in course of time also became a writer to the signet, married a daughter of his apprentice master, and continued to carry on business as a W.S. for some years ; then he passed as Advocate and became a most successful Counsel. Mr Macfarlane was for some years Sheriff of Renfrew. Afterwards he was raised to the bench, and assumed the title of Lord Ormidale. After a distinguished career, he died on 3rd Nov., 1880, aged 79, and is interred in Warriston Cemetery, Edinburgh. (His son, George L., is a member of the Faculty of Advocates.) His lordship was a Deputy-Lieutenant of Dumbartonshire. Everything relating to the old village of Luss, its environments and people, were very dear to the deceased senator of the College of Justice, and he took great delight in revisiting the scenes of his happy boyhood. While that was the case, yet his sympathies were not confined to that quarter—they extended to all matters affecting the general interests of the whole county of Dumbarton, and any literary works treating thereof were eagerly acquired by him.

There are a few other Luss men who have, in their several walks in life, achieved considerable distinction. For instance, there are the brothers Thomas and John Ethelbert Gildard, now in the service of the Corporation of Glasgow, the former in the Office of Public Works, and the latter in the office of the Water Trust. They are both men of culture, and have earned praise

from the judicious by their pens and otherwise. In addition to these, there are Duncan M'Nicol, now of Rothesay, the Cabman Poet, who sings so sweetly ; and last of all to be mentioned in this connection are the brothers James and Donald MacGregor, of hotel-keeping fame. The first mentioned deceased a good many years ago, but the last named is still with us, hale, hearty, and eminently prosperous.

I now proceed to notice briefly two of the historic families of the parish, the first in importance being

#### THE COLQUHOUNS OF COLQUHOUN AND LUSS.

On a mound near the margin of Lochlomond, about two miles south of Luss, and about fifty yards to the north-west of Rossdhu House, there stand the ruins of an ancient chapel which seems to have originally formed a part of the old castle of Rossdhu. A small portion of the grey walls of this ancient residence is still to be seen a little to the east of the time-battered, centuries-old religious fane. Nothing now remains of this at-one-time goodly edifice but the ivy-covered walls, within whose cold shade many members of the Colquhoun family lie in the dust of death.

The place of sepulture of the Colquhouns of Colquhoun and Luss is almost entirely hid from view by a large number of yew trees of noble proportions, one of which, standing at the entrance door, was supposed by the recently deceased Sir James Colquhoun, eleventh baronet, to have been planted in the twelfth century. There used to be inside the chapel an old baptismal font. It has been removed to the new chapel at Rossdhu House, but there is still to be seen within the walls of the old chapel a large carved stone effigy of an ecclesiastic, believed to be that of Saint Kessog, the patron saint of Luss.

In very far-back times the chiefs of the Colquhouns had their place of sepulture in the crypt of Glasgow Cathedral, near the middle of the south wall ; and as the masonry over their grave is

both high and sculptured, their last resting-place is not hard to find, despite the dim, religious light which obtains in the place even at the noon of day. In times less remote, tradition has it that the kirkyards of Dumbarton and Kilpatrick were employed by the family as places of burial.

Within the confines of the venerable Chapel of St. Mary, Rossdhu, there lie the following members of the Colquhoun family, which rose to distinction in the reign of Alexander II. Sir Robert, the great-grandson of the founder, Umphredus, married the heiress of Luss, and from them the present Sir James is nineteenth in descent :—

Sir Humphrey Colquhoun, died 1718, aged about 47 years. He was one of the representatives for Dumbartonshire in the last Scottish Parliament, and a strenuous opponent of the Union. Through his only child, Anne, the Luss estates were carried into the possession of Janies Grant of Phiscardine, whom she married. He assumed the name and arms of Sir James Colquhoun of Luss.

Sir James Colquhoun, died on 16th November, 1786, aged 72 years. Sir James was one of the younger sons of the above-noticed marriage. His elder brothers having in succession succeeded to the Grant estate, the Luss estate devolved upon him according to Sir Humphrey's will.

Lady Helen (Sutherland) Colquhoun died on 7th January, 1791, aged 73 years. The town of Helensburgh was named after this estimable lady.

Sir James Colquhoun, died on 23rd April, 1805, aged about 64. This baronet was Sheriff-Depute of Dumbartonshire, and Principal Clerk of the Court of Session.

Mary (Falconer), Lady Colquhoun, died on 12th April, 1833, age unknown.

Sir James Colquhoun, died on 3rd February, 1836, aged 62. Elected representative for Dumbartonshire in the House of Commons in 1802.



SAINT MAC KESSOG AS FOUND IN HIS CAIRN



Janet Sinclair, Lady Colquhoun, died on 21st October, 1846, aged 66. The praise of the Good Lady Colquhoun is in all the places where God-likeness is held in reverence.

Jane Abercromby, Lady Colquhoun, died on May 3rd, 1844, aged 23. She was wife of the late and mother of the present Sir James.

Sarah Maitland Colquhoun, died on the 28th January, 1865, aged 62 years. She was daughter of Sir James and Janet Sinclair, Lady Colquhoun.

Sir James Colquhoun died on 18th December, 1873, aged 69. The lamented deceased was for years Member of Parliament for and Lord Lieutenant of the County, and justly esteemed for honourable Christian conduct by all ranks and conditions of men. He was drowned in Lochlomond while returning from deer shooting on Inch Lonaig.

William Colquhoun, youngest brother of above, died in March, 1884, aged 77 years. He died a bachelor. The deceased was closely identified with the political, social and religious life of Dumbartonshire. He seceded in 1843 from the church of his fathers, and became a great stoop of the Free Church.

The following inscription in Latin was placed on the chapel walls by the late Sir James, eleventh baronet of Colquhoun and Luss. It was composed by John Colquhoun, Sheriff of the county of Dumbarton, grand uncle of the present Sir James.

*Translation.*

“In memory of his ancestors of the family of Colquhoun, whose bones rest here, this Monument was erected by James, Laird of Colquhoun and Luss, in the year of Grace, 1839. ‘By Him who overcame death and rose again, we are taught that we too shall again take flesh and bone.’”

The original family property of Colquhoun, whence they took their name, which lay to the eastward of Dumbarton, has long ago passed into other hands, saving some kind of superiority still held by them over the lands in which for centuries they held almost sovereign sway.

## JOHN COLQUHOUN.

Although the remains of John Colquhoun—author of “The Moor and the Loch,” and other works—do not lie in the venerable chapel of Rossdhu, along with those of his kinsfolk, yet, on account of his being a member of the historic house of Colquhoun and Luss, and a notable Lochlomond man, I here give a short sketch of his life. He was born in 1805. Was second son of Sir James Colquhoun, Bart., his mother being the “good” Lady Colquhoun. His boyhood was spent on the banks of Lochlomond, “’mid scenes of nature’s wildest grandeur;” but each season he was sent to Edinburgh for the futherance of his education at its High School. Ultimately, he and his elder brother, James, were sent to Winteringham School, Lincolnshire, and from thence to Edinburgh University.

When this course of education was over, John Colquhoun joined the 33rd Regiment, the “Duke’s Own,” exchanging ere long to the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards, and it was while his regiment was quartered at York that he became “a good soldier of the cross” and a “Christian sportsman.”

Before many years were over he sold out of 4th Dragoon Guards, and married Frances Sara, fourth daughter of E. Fuller Maitland, of Park Place and Stansted Hall, who was in all respects worthy of her husband. Four sons and five daughters were born to them, all spared to grow up to manhood and womanhood, and knit together in the bonds of love and mutual esteem.

For thirty years he held religious meetings in the Grass-market of Edinburgh. As a sportsman and a writer on sporting subjects he had few equals. After an illness of five weeks, he passed in perfect peace to his rest, on 27th May, 1885.

The day before he died, John Colquhoun “saw a vision”—Heaven opened! and he beheld his wife within its sacred enclosure, arrayed in Robes of Righteousness, and most beautiful to behold because of the celestial radiancy which streamed from her

fair countenance, and in an ecstacy he uttered her name. Next day, which was the eighth anniversary of his wife's death, he entered into the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

All through his illness the "Christian sportsman's" mind was kept by Divine Grace in perfect peace. He had the assurance of the Holy Spirit witnessing with his spirit that he had passed from death to life, and that therefore nothing could seperate him from the love of Christ. At eventide, with him it was light; death for him had no terrors. Shortly before he quitted his earthly tabernacle his daughter, Miss Colquhoun, observed him most earnestly looking at his hands, and asked the reason. He replied to her in these terms:—"I sometimes think I should like to have been crucified to show my love to the Saviour."

Early in John Colquhoun's married life he dedicated himself solemnly to the service of the Lord in these terms:—"With the help of the Holy Spirit I engage to dedicate myself to the service of the Lord, and to try, as far as I can, to do His will towards God and towards my neighbour; to watch the first approach of sin in my heart, and to pray for the Spirit's aid and influence against it; to keep my heart with all diligence; to shirk no duty, however irksome or unpleasant, if I am convinced that it is laid upon me for the glory of God, or for the good of my fellowmen; and as I can do nothing of myself, *not even think a good thought*, I now beseech my blessed Lord and Saviour's intercession to help my infirmities." This soldier of the Cross was enabled by God's Grace to quit him like a man and be strong.

I have now to say a few words regarding the M'Auslane family, for long a notable one in the parish of Luss.

#### THE M'AUSLANE FAMILY.

Among the families which from of old time were connected with the district of the Lennox is that of M'Auslane, which is variously spelt—by some, as above printed, by others without

the final *e*, and by not a few with a final *d*. It is on record that M'Auslane was the ancient surname of the family of Buchanan, and to the same stock likewise belong the M'Millans, and M'Colmans or M'Calmans. At first the name was spelt MacAuselan, meaning son of Auselan, or rather Anselan, the first ancestor being Buey Anselan, meaning the yellow-haired Anselan. He was son to O'Kyan, provincial king of the south part of Ulster, and left Ireland in 1016, taking refuge in Scotland, and landing with some attendants on the northern coast of Argyllshire, near the Lennox country.

After a short period of time he was introduced to King Malcolm II., and taken into his service to fight against the Danes, who were then harassing the country. Prince Anselan or Ause-lan, as the name came to be written (a *u* taking the place of an *n*), so distinguished himself at different battles that King Malcolm gave him the greater part of the estate of Buchanan in Stirlingshire, on the north side of Lochlomond, along with other lands, in reward for his achievements.

Gilbert, the eighth laird, was the first who assumed the name of Buchanan, though he and some of his successors seem to have used their ancient surname as their humour and inclination led them. John, the twelfth laird, had three sons, the eldest of whom, Sir Alexander MacAuselan, greatly distinguished himself at the battle of Baugé in France, where he killed the English leader, the Duke of Clarence. Several of the family attained the honour of knighthood when it was more difficult to attain than it is now in these piping times of peace; and one of them, Patrick, the sixteenth laird, who, with a great many of his name, was killed at the battle of Flodden, was married to a daughter of the Earl of Argyll.

Tradition gives an account of one MacBeth, Baron MacAuselan, a person of uncommon stature and strength, who lived in the time of King Robert III.

John, the twenty-second and last laird of Buchanan, died in Dec., 1682, and the estate of Buchanan, after having continued 665 years in the M'Auslane or Buchanan family, became transferred to the Marquis of Montrose.

For a long period the M'Auslanes seem to have been located chiefly in the neighbourhood of Luss, and in the ancient church-yard of that village lie the remains of many of the name. At one time three farms, those of Prestalloch, Stockidow and Innerlaurin, were owned by three brothers of the name of M'Auslane—Peter, James, and Humphrey. The three farms were all situated near each other on the lands now belonging to Sir James Colquhoun, Bart.—that of Prestalloch being near to, but not quite in Glenfruin, and at no great distance from the banks of Lochlomond. Peter was great grandsire of a M'Auslane family, several members of which have occupied positions of prominence and usefulness in the departments of religion and literature. Among these were the Rev. Dr Alex. M'Auslane of London; Rev. John M'Auslane, Garliestown, and Wm. T. M'Auslane, LL.D., of Glasgow, well known as a poet and hymn writer. His only son, William, who died in January, 1891, a few months after having been licensed by the Glasgow U.P. Presbytery, gave promise of more than maintaining the traditional ability of the family.

It is interesting to mention that by the mother's side this family is descended from a branch of the once powerful and royal house of Stuart—the Stuarts of Appin. The great grandmother of the brothers named, who in her day was celebrated for her beauty, was a daughter of Stuart of Ballachulish, while her uncle, Colonel Charles Stuart of Ardshiel, led the Stuart clan in the different battles fought on behalf of Prince Charles Edward. I have seen an interesting account of a visit which, in the summer of 1890, Dr W. T. M'Auslane, with his two daughters, paid to Ardshiel and different parts of Appin. This great grandmother was a niece of the then Marchioness of Breadalbane.

## ARROCHAR.

The parish of Arrochar, which embraces a goodly portion of north-west Lochlomondside, was for long part of Luss. After its disjunction therefrom, Archibald M'Lachlan was presented as first minister of the charge by the patron, MacFarlane, laird of Arrochar, who, as only heritor within its bounds (save MacFarlane of Gartartan), had undertaken the burden of providing a kirk, manse, and glebe in the newly-erected parish. The origin of the name of the parish is disputed. Some say that it is derived from the Gaelic *Arrar*—a hilly country ; and other some assert it takes its rise from *Arachar*—a measure of land.

Since 1682 there have ministered to the parishioners in holy things fourteen clergymen, including the present incumbent.

The kirk, kirkyard, and manse of Arrochar are situated at Tyness, about a mile south of the village. They form a beauteous combination, standing 'mong green fields at the base of the range of the rugged hills which separate Lochlong from Lochlomond.

Fronting the sacred edifice, the loch stretches its dark hill-o'ershadowed waters for many a league, and directly opposite the place of graves Ben Arthur, dark of hue and rugged of mien, towers up proudly, having as apex that weird auld carle the Cobbler, and these give a sublime aspect to the entrance of dreary, dark Glencroe. This glen has as its southerly termination the westerly-trending range of hills, at the feet of which lies in deep repose the richly wooded promontory on which Ardgarten House stands, the beloved Highland home of MacGregor of Glencroe, a native of Luss, known world-wide as the popular mine host of the Royal Hotel, Edinburgh. His estate, as I have been informed, belonged of old to the MacGregors, but these were hunted out of it when the clan was nameless and proscribed. Now a member of the clan Gregor has re-conquered it, and it once more owns a MacGregor as lord.

In this connection it is worthy of mention that the laird of Glencroe's deceased brother, James, who erstwhile was proprietor of the Queen's Hotel, Glasgow, purchased the Glengyle estate, Loch Katrine, a very ancient patrimony of the MacGregors, and in his family it still remains.

The present kirk of the parish, which is a fine specimen of the Gothic architecture of its era, was built in 1847, in near proximity to where its predecessor stood, the ruined grey walls of which are still to be seen enclosing a place of sepulture, wherein, among others, are buried all that is mortal of the Rev. Dr. MacFarlane, the genial minister of the parish from 1844 to his death in 1869, and his great friend, Mr John M'Nab, Arrochar Hotel. Mr M'Nab was a native of Blair Athole. He was for a long period the popular steward of Dumbarton steamers. In 1865 he leased the hotel of Arrochar and sheep farm connected therewith. Two years before his decease, which occurred about seven years ago, he had an attack of an apoplectic nature, which enfeebled him so much that he had arranged to retire soon from active life and live privately at Tarbet. After a renewed attack of his old complaint, he quietly passed into the silent land, aged 65. He was a much-loved, honourable man, and full of pawky humour. He is survived by Mrs M'Nab, three sons and a daughter.

Before leaving Lochlong-side for that of Lochlomond, I have thought it right to give a short biographical sketch of the esteemed minister of the parish,

REV. JAMES DEWAR, M.A.

The minister of Arrochar is son of an erstwhile schoolmaster of that parish. Having received a good education at home, young Dewar was sent to the University of Glasgow to study for the ministry. After finishing his studies, he obtained license from the Presbytery of Glasgow on the 8th January, 1851. For some months, however, before he became a licensed preacher, he was

employed as missionary under the Rev. D. Jamieson, of St. Paul's, Glasgow. Mr Dewar next became assistant to the Rev. Dr. Norman MacLeod (old Norman), of St. Columba's, Glasgow. After acting in that capacity for a short time, the Duke of Argyll presented him to the church and parish of Kilmodan at the unanimous request of the parishioners, and he was ordained to that charge in September, 1851. There he continued until May, 1869, when his native parish became vacant, and to it he was presented by the late Sir James Colquhoun, Bart. Mr Dewar is a good Gaelic scholar, and preaches with as much fluency in that language as he does when he is discoursing in English, so that his services are in request over a considerable area.

About two miles from Arrochar, across the isthmus which divides Lochlomond from Lochlong, and not far from the margin of the former, in a quiet glen amid the majesty of hills, beautiful for situation, there stands, near the road and immediately behind the Tarbet Free Church,

#### BALLYHENAN BURIAL PLACE.

So far as is known, no chapel, down to a very recent date, ever stood on or near the spot to account for a place of sepulture being there. It is the general belief that its origin as such took place many centuries ago after a bloody encounter between rival clans, when the slain were there deposited in the bosom of their mother earth, all gory and clad in their tartan array. It is a picturesque burying place that of Ballyhenan.

One of the finest tombstones in the place of graves is erected to the memory of the late Mr M'Pherson, Hotel Keeper, Tarbet, father of the present esteemed tenant of the hostelry.

On the south-east corner of the graveyard, which exhibits in picturesque combination billowy mounds and quaint, moss-covered tombstones, there stands a grey granite monument about eight feet in height, surmounted by an elegant draped urn. The ground

in front is carefully tended by loving hands. The inscription on the tombstone runs as follows :—“In loving memory of Alexander MacPherson, Tarbet, Lochlomond. Died 9th Nov., 1861. Elizabeth, his daughter, died 29th October, 1862 ; and Janet Cameron, his widow, died at Stirling, 20th February, 1882. ‘Her children arise up and call her blessed.’ And Janet Milligan, wife of A. H. MacPherson, Tarbet Hotel, died on the 6th February, 1889, aged 41 years. ‘I know that my Redæmer liveth.’ ‘Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.’”

Mr Alexander MacPherson was born at Laggan, Inverness-shire, in 1804, his father being a farmer. After receiving a fair education, and doing a spell of work on his father’s farm, he began hotel keeping, first in Perth, then in Blair Athole. In 1854 he removed from thence to Tarbet Hotel, Lochlomondside, where he remained till his death. Mr MacPherson was a man of great push and energy. He was a well-read man, especially in the domain of history, and on literary matters corresponded, amongst others, with the late Sir Archibald Allison, Bart., the historian, and with the Messrs Blackwood, his publishers. At his death, the subject of this memoir was 57 years of age, and left a family of four sons, four daughters, and a widow, as also a host of friends, to mourn his departure.

It may be stated that there is a somewhat pretentious white marble enclosed tombstone on the west side of the place of graves, erected to the memory of the lairds MacMurrich of Stuckgown, whose history is narrated further on ; and it is also worthy of note that near the entrance gate there is a stone of memorial over the grave of a blacksmith, with a goodly sized anvil and other objects carved on same.

The minister of the Free Church, incidentally noticed above, is one who for the last decade has taken a warm interest in the spiritual and temporal advancement of the people among whom his lot is cast.

## REV JOHN R. ELDER

was born at Edinburgh fifty years ago, son of Rev Dr Elder sometime Minister of St. Paul's Church, Edinburgh, latterly of West Church, Rothesay. Moderator of Free Church General Assembly, 1871. Educated at Rothesay and Edinburgh. M.A. of Edinburgh University. Licensed in 1867 by Free Presbytery of Dunoon. Assistant at Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, and in St. Matthew's Church, Glasgow. Minister of Free Church, Cromarty, for thirteen years. Minister of Free Church, Arrochar, since April, 1882. The reverend gentleman, it may be stated, is a member of the School Board, and also of the Parochial Board of Arrochar Parish.

The great historic family of Arrochar is

## THE MACFARLANES OF THAT ILK.

The burial place of this ancient family was Luss. The land knoweth the family as its lord no longer. They traced their descent to Gilchrist, fourth son of Alwyn, Earl of Lennox, who obtained a grant of land in the reign of Alexander II. His son Duncan succeeded him, and he had a son Malduin, by his cousin Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, fourth Earl of Lennox. Malduin was father of Bartholomew, in the Gaelic Pharlan, and he in all probability was the chief after whom the clan was named. The early history of this clan is one of turbulence and bloodshed. Their raids, however, seem to have been more in the direction of harrying and harassing their more lawless northern neighbours, than engaging in acts of hostility against their more law abiding southern ones. The earliest and principal stronghold of the clan Farlane was situated at Inveruglas, and it being destroyed in Cromwell's time, their chief had afterwards his residence at Tarbet and at Ellan Vhow, a lonely little isle on the north end of Loch-lomond, where the ruins of his seat are still to be seen. Loch Sloy was the gathering place and slogan of the clan. On the death of

the sixth Earl of Lennox without male issue, Malcolm MacFarlane became the representative of the male line of the family. He was son of the Bartholomew mentioned above, who, about 1344, obtained from his cousin Donald a confirmation of all the lands and liberties previously in possession of his family. His son and successor, Duncan, obtained a charter of the lands of Arrochar, and married Christian, daughter of Sir Colin Campbell of Lochow. There never failed the clan a chief to rule it, from that time down to about the end of the eighteenth century, when the estate of Arrochar while possessed by John MacFarlane, was brought to a judicial sale (in 1785), and purchased by Ferguson of Raith. John MacFarlane, the last cheif, had several children.

When in Edinburgh recently, I had an hour to spare and went to spend it in Greyfriar's Churchyard, my object being to visit the grave of the last of the MacFarlanes of that ilk. I found it easily; it is situated at the south west corner of old Greyfriar's Church, right under the slab inserted in its wall to the memory of Allan Ramsay the poet. The MacFarlane memorial stone is of freestone, circular topped, and stands seven feet or so high. Within the circle the arms of the family are engraven, in bold relief, having over them the legend on a scroll, "This I'll defend," and beneath them the slogan of the clan "Loch Sloy." The slabs of stone contain the following inscription : "In memory of Janet MacFarlane, daughter of William MacFarlane of MacFarlane, Esq., died 2nd Dec., 1821 ; and of her niece, Margaret Elizabeth MacFarlane, who died May 12, 1846, aged seventy nine years (not twenty nine, as given in a local history), being at the period of her decease the lineal representative of the ancient and honourable house of MacFarlane of that ilk." The slab containing the foregoing inscription has slipped out of its place, being parted from the monument, and now rests on the ground and against the stone in an upright position. To shew how strong the clannish feeling still exists, I was informed by the keeper of the graveyard that a MacFarlane,

a common soldier quartered in Edinburgh Castle, came recently to the revered burial place with a tradesman to fix the inscription tablet into its original position, but to his great regret it had got twisted and could not be reinstated. As showing the increase of recent years in the value of Highland property, it may be stated that Ferguson of Raith in 1785 paid for the Arrochar estate the sum of £28,000. In 1821 it was sold to Sir James Colquhoun of Colquhoun and Luss, Bart., for £78,000.

When the MacFarlane family began to get into pecuniary difficulties, the Stuckgown portion of the Gartartan property was disposed of, which in the course of time led to the establishment on Lochlomondside of

#### THE MACMURRICHIS OF STUCKGOWN.

The estate of Stuckgown was sold by Alexander MacFarlane of Gartartan, in 1718, to John Syme, flesher, burgess in Edinburgh. The property, in 1799, was acquired from his heirs by two brothers, John MacMurrich and Malcolm MacMurrich, merchants, Glasgow, who were at their decease succeeded in the ownership by their nephew, James MacMurrich. He, in virtue of powers contained in a special Act of Parliament, disposed of the estate for £42,000 to the trustees of Sir James Colquhoun, of Colquhoun and Luss, Bart. The Stuckgown property split up the Colquhoun estate on west Lochlomondside in a most tantalizing way, and the late Sir James left instructions in his will to buy it up at any price if it ever came into the market. The property for which such a long price was paid is an eminently attractive one. The recent laird of Stuckgown, who has a life-rent interest in one of the farms on the estate, still lives on the property.









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